

# World Rainforest Report no. 16

June 1990



- *Columbian Indians get half of Amazon.*
- *Sustainability • R.A.C. Actions, • More.*



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## Paul Richards and the Korup National Park, Cameroun.

This is an appeal for the conservation of one of the most important rainforests in Africa which at the same time will commemorate the works of Paul Richards, one of the founders of the study of the ecology of tropical rainforests.

The work required to set up the national park includes rural development schemes in the surrounding area as well as the provision of facilities for scientific, administrative and ground staff for the Park. The plans for the Park will make it of international status and application will be made to have it designated a World Heritage site. A complementary project is planned for the establishment of a national park at Oban in Nigeria so that the two parks will share a common international boundary.

The family and friends of Paul Richards have set out to raise 120,000 pounds to pay for the cost of the Paul Richards Centre to be located in the Korup National Park. The planning and building of the centre will be carried out as part of the technical assistance provided through the agreement between the World Wide Fund for Nature and the Cameroun Government.

The forest in this area in west Cameroun is probably the most species rich rainforest in Africa. It is very important for primates and about 25% of all African species are thought to occur here. Other species of interest are: an endemic water shrew, the golden cat, the forest leopard, elephant and buffalo, the water chevrotain and the endangered Cameroun clawless otter.

Those interested can contribute in one of two ways: 1. By cheque or bank order payable to Paul Richards Korup Fund. To save costs, receipts will not be sent unless specifically requested. 2. By deed of covenant. Because tax may be recoverable, we hope that people may opt for this method of payment. Please write for a form.

The address for all communication is: 57 Selwyn Rd., Cambridge, CB3 9EA, England.

**World Council of Indigenous Peoples: International Conference 1990 Tromso Norway, 8-12 August.**

George Manuel, the WCIP's first president (1975-81) started organising the Indigenous Peoples to a world-wide association early in the 1970's. WCIP was founded in October 1975 in Canada and is dedicated to abolishing the possible use of physical and cultural genocide and ethnocide, combatting racism, ensuring political, economic and social justice of indigenous peoples; establishing and strengthening the concept of indigenous and cultural rights, based on the principles of Human Rights.

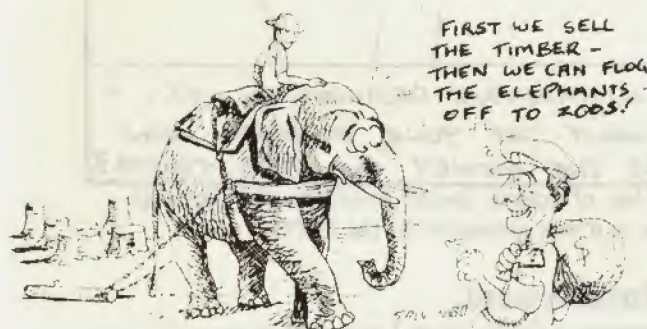
The upcoming conference will be an important step for obtaining these measures. Forest peoples are an important part of this process.



# Burma: A Country Under Seige

Burma, ruled since 1962 by a brutal military-socialist regime, once recognised as one of the wealthiest countries in Asia now suffers inexorable environmental social and economic destruction, the forest environment heading rapidly for the crisis point like those of its neighbours - Bangladesh, India Thailand and China.

This fact is not acknowledged, especially by the military who blithely claim the forests still cover 57% of the country's surface - a figure that was obsolete 30 years ago when the regime took power. In 1983, the UN FAO satellite analysis of Burma recorded that the amount of undisturbed forest was 21% and large quantities of these areas had in fact suffered some disturbance.



It has been said that if Burma's forests continue to be raped at the present rate, there will be nothing left within five years. The people who made these comments might have seriously over-estimated the extent of the remaining resources. Thousand of tons of rainforest logs are being cut and carried daily out of Burma, especially along the Thai-Burmese border.

This rape of the forests and the foreign money it brings finance the brutal military regime. Logging contracts are generally for three years; in some instances the concessions comprise of 100,00 acres or more and there appears to be no selective cutting, which means logging companies are taking everything they can.

Areas once rich with wildlife and trees are rapidly becoming desert-like, the tribal people who have lived in harmony with their environment for many years are losing their way of life and their very chance for survival.

## SOURCES:

Dawn News Bulletin. Vol.2. No. 6. Published by ALL BURMA STUDENTS DEMOCRATIC FRONT.

The BURMESE RELIEF CENTRE. May 1990 Newsletter.



# Letters

## WHOSE FRIENDS ?

Dear Editor,

In WRR 14 were a series of articles on Melbourne RAG, one of Australia's highest profile RAG's.

Adjoining Robert Burrowe's article were several shorter pieces one of which was entitled "Our Friends the Police" which I would like to draw some critical attention to. My reason for doing this is simply to point out the naivety and inconsistency of green groups making "warm fuzzy" overtures to the repressive apparatus of the state.

As Larry O'Loughlin, an editor of Chain Reaction writes:

"...the ultimate power of a government is its jails and its army and police force. Are we as greens expected to prop up the system that is being used against us time and time again as we struggle to keep and make the world a livable place?" (Chain Reaction, p.19, April 1990)

The assertion that the police refused to arrest blockaders because of their "discipline" and the "high level of dialogue" between themselves and the protestors stands out as one of the silliest appraisals of police imaginable.

Our actions aren't any guarantee of invulnerability from arrest: the cops act under orders. If ordered to make arrests they do. If they don't arrest it's because they were ordered not to. Not because of some imaginary magical power surrounding the activists involved.

Lets have some clear thinking on the subject - the cops exist to protect private property. Those with the most property get the most protection. In this category I would include those who profit from the destruction of our planet's forests.

Regards, Lewey.



# Report on the Meeting of the International Tropical Timber Organisation Bali, May 1990.

John Revington.

## Background.

The International Tropical Timber Agreement (ITTA) was ratified on April 1, 1985, and at present some 44 nations are party to it. The aim of the agreement is to establish a system of consultation and cooperation between consuming and producing countries in the tropical timber trade. The Agreement is run by the International Tropical Timber Organisation (ITTO) which meets annually. (The ITTO can be contacted directly at: Sangyo Boeki Centre Bldg., 2 Yamashita - CHO, Naga - Ku, Yokohama, Japan.)

## Guidelines.

Although the ITTO pays lip-service to concerns about the conservation of tropical forest, it is primarily a trade organisation and it has done little to conserve forests.

At the meeting in Bali, guidelines were adopted by the organisation which call for all timber in the international trade come from sustainable sources by the year 2000. There are three major problems with this: 1. Most of the world's unprotected tropical forest will be destroyed or seriously degraded by the year 2000. 2. No one has yet achieved sustainable yields in tropical forest (see article in this issue of WRR). This means the guidelines are based on a monstrous assumption. 3. The guidelines are not enforceable anyway.

## Narrow Focus.

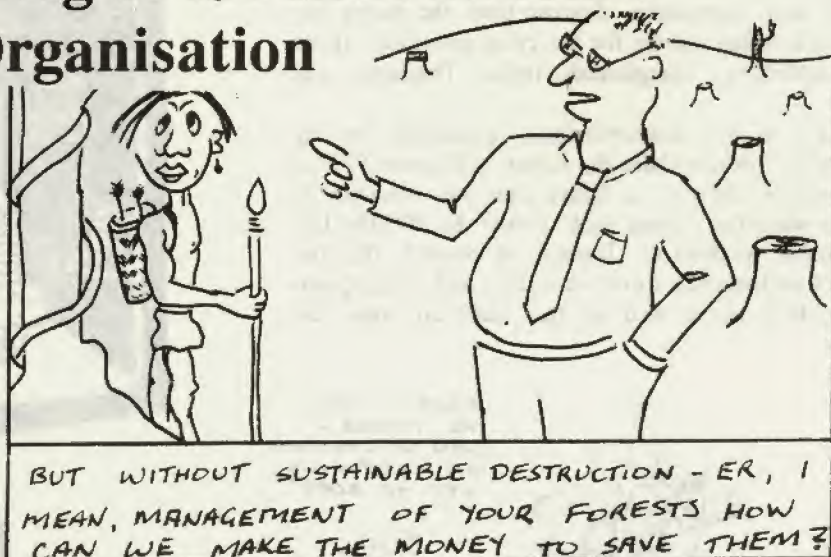
In his opening address to the ITTO meeting, the Executive Director, Dr. B. C. Y. Freezailah, had this to say about the advocates of a ban on trade in tropical timber: "[They] have fallen victim to the tendency of concentrating a powerful search light on one aspect of a problem whilst this results in creating darkness in the surrounding areas."

This is an extraordinary criticism for him to be making in the light of the ITTO's own extremely narrow focus.

The focus on timber resources of forests to the exclusion of the interests of indigenous peoples, the value of non-timber products, and the survival of the global eco-system could hardly be more "simplistic" and "short sighted", to use Dr Freezailah's own words.

## Sarawak Mission.

The ITTO mission to Sarawak (see accompanying article) is an example of this narrow focus at work. In defending the mission's timber fixation, one of its mem-



bers said that of course timber would be the focus of the mission as it was sponsored by the ITTO.

## NGO Involvement.

As an observer at the meeting, I expected to be critical of the ITTO process itself; what I did not expect was my disillusionment with the role of the environmental organisations who attended the meeting.

As a group the NGO's failed to come out against the Sarawak Report despite its obvious inadequacies. Nor was there any chance of a concerted call for a ban on the logging of primary forest.

Some of the NGO observers, particularly members of the large WWF contingent, were intent on trying to achieve whatever gains they could by influencing the ITTO process. They were therefore not prepared to incur the disapproval of ITTO delegates. When NGO's make compromises in order to reform a large organisation like the ITTO, they need to look very carefully at who it is that is being reformed.

## Sustainability.

One of the highlights of the Meeting was the presentation by Aila Keito of the Rainforest Conservation Society of Queensland of a paper refuting the claim that sustainable management of tropical forests had been achieved in North Queensland. (See the article on sustainability in this issue of WRR) Since sustainable management is the goal of the ITTO and North Queensland has been put forward as the prime example of sustainability at work, this is a damning indictment of the ITTO's credibility.

## Conclusion.

Until the ITTO pays due attention to the broader issues instead of merely paying lip service to the chimera of sustainability, it will continue to bolster the forces of global impoverishment.



# The ITTO Sarawak Report

## Overview.

Sarawak is by far the largest source of unprocessed tropical timber on the world market. Japan buys about 2/3 of its current annual output of 15 million cubic metres of timber.

Professor S.C.Chin of the University of Malaysia says of Sarawak: "the forest situation is now critical. It is necessary to face the problems of degradation and destruction squarely and honestly. At the present rate of logging the primary forest will have been cleared and that will be the end of Sarawak's timber industry." The native people are the ones who will suffer most from the impact of logging. They depend on the forest for wild game, (worth an estimated \$100 million a year) as well as other products like fish, nuts, resins, rattan, and bamboo. In 1987, native people first set up blockades to defend their lands against the logging, and their struggle has brought the issue of logging in Sarawak to world attention. In response to the bad press it was receiving, the Malaysian government invited ITTO (International Tropical Timber Organisation) to send a mission to Sarawak to negotiate 'the promotion of sustainable forest management in Sarawak.' The nine member team led by Lord Cranbrook spent a total of 5 days in Sarawak and handed down a report at the recent meeting of the ITTO.

## NGO Response:

Representatives of environment groups at the ITTO meeting were critical of the mission's report. The two areas of criticism were the mission's failure to deal adequately with the impact of logging on the indigenous people (the issue which to a large extent prompted the request for the mission) and the failure to deal adequately with the question of sustainability.

## Indigenous people:

The following is extract from the NGO critique of the mission report. "The report clearly gives low priority to the needs and rights of indigenous people even though the official forest policy of Sarawak explicitly does give priority to the prior claims of local demands over a profitable export trade. Far from taking advantage of this fact to make recommendations to secure native livelihoods - surely a valid interpretation of the mission's mandate to promote the 'optimum utilisation' of the forest resources, the mission instead inverted the priorities of Sarawak's forest policy, putting the production of timber above local needs..."

"The mission gave so little priority to evaluating the impact of logging on local economies that it only visited two native long houses. One of these was a



model village established by the government with negligible logging in the vicinity..."

## Sustainability:

The report says "the mission's overall assessment is that sustainable forestry can be achieved, is being achieved in some respects, but is failing in others." Asked if this meant that some areas of forests were being logged sustainably, Cranbrook said it did not. One would think that logging is either sustainable or it is not. It is therefore not clear whether saying it is being achieved in some respects actually means anything.

The report recommends that production in Sarawak be reduced from an annual yield of 13 million cubic metres to 9.2 million metres in order to achieve sustainability. According to the NGO analysis of the report's reasoning, this "would only mean that all primary forest assumed to be available for timber production be harvested in 13 rather than 11 years".

This makes any suggestions of sustainable yields laughable.

Lord Cranbrook asked that those who criticise the report should bear in mind that it was intended for a specific audience. One could conclude that it was only intended for those who have an overwhelming need to be reassured.

The report does almost nothing to help preserve the forests of Sarawak. It does nothing for the state's indigenous people and nothing to alter the call for a moratorium on the logging that is taking place.

Sources:

"The Promotion of Sustainable Forest Management: A case Study in Sarawak, Malaysia. ITTC (V111)/7th May 1990.

Various NGO commentaries on the report.





# Interview with Penan Nomads

Apr 11, 1990

Excerpts from a talk with four Penan from the Limbang River region of Sarawak who were desperate for their plight to be communicated to the countries that consume tropical timber.

In all there are about 750,000 tribal people affected by the logging in Sarawak.

Penan men: Chief Along Sega, Uyan Ngang

Penan women: Libai Uwe (Sinah Langai) Ale Lisu (Sinah Kem).

## Uma Bawang Trial

For the Penan it was their first visit to Kuching, the State capital of Sarawak, 800 km south from their homeland in the upper Limbang River. They had come to Kuching along with 60 other natives from around the state to lend support to the Kayan people of Uma Bawang who were seeking to take the government to court to stop logging on their customary land. This was one of the first times that a tribal community has attempted to use the courts to stop logging of their lands. The hearings, which took three days, will establish whether the people of Uma Bawang have the right to have their case against the government and the logging companies heard in court. It is not known when the Magistrate will hand down his decision.

### Along Sega:

...Because of the disturbance of the companies we went further into the interior to Long Adang and it was while we were there that graveyards on both sides of the river were destroyed. This was in 1985 and 1986.

...When I consider all these problems I just want the company to leave our area immediately. I believe that the death of several of my relatives in that area was caused by bad drinking water.

...At one time the Chief Minister and James Wong had a meeting with us. This was in one of the timber camps that belong to Mr James Wong. The Chief Minister left early so James Wong stayed talking with us and said we dont have to worry about our land being destroyed because whatever we want, maybe money, he can try to

give it to us. I said "I am not going to get any money from you. Both your eyes may fall down, may come out of their sockets to see how much money you have but I am not going to have any of that."

I also told him "You are the one who gives licences out to people to destroy our land. If you don't remove your workers from our area we are going to kill them."

... I said again that he must stay and then James Wong took a bar of soap, gave it to me and said "Use this to wash your head to remove all the lice from your hair." So he left. It was the only thing he gave to me. (Laughter). Since then he has never met with me and we only meet with the workers and the managers of his timber company. But when we meet with the managers they say, "We have no final authority, the authority is with James Wong in Kuching."

(At the time James Wong's company, Limbang Trading was in partnership with the Japanese company C Itoh which was doing the logging. Limbang Trading is the licensee for the area of Along Sega's lands and other areas of forest totalling several hundred thousand hectares. Datuk Wong is the state Minister for Environment and Tourism. He is reported to have commented to western journalists that if logging reduces the rainfall in Sarawak this is a good thing as all the rain stops him from playing golf.)



... We were not afraid of going to jail because we know that either way we are going to die. Even if we go to jail we will die.

...I think that the evil spirit is blocking the hearing of the timber company to listen to our grievances.

Even though I have not lived for so long, and I am not old enough to say that we have been living in that area for so long, I believe that my great great grand fathers have been in that area and it is only the company that say that we do not have any rights to our land...

AC: What do you think it will be like in ten years from now?

AS: We will die. Give us only a year...

PA: I have heard that the women were very involved in the blockades.

Ale Lisu: We regard the family as one unit and whatever the men do the women always help them. During the blockade the women have to work alone to gather leaves for our huts and wood for our fires and sago and take care of our children.

PA: What hardships are created for women by the logging?



## Bruno Manser Leaves Sarawak

AL: ...Most of the jungle products have been depleted. There are many species of rattan that we use for our daily life and also the jungle harvest that is now not enough to feed our family, our children. Before the companies entered our area, when the jungle was not destroyed, we women could go and make sago ourselves, we can go and get palm heart, and we could also bring the dogs to hunt. But now we can't do all these things because they are very far, they have been finished, only men can do them for us.

PA: *At the blockades women were prepared to be arrested but in the early blockades they were not. I have heard that in the most recent blockades women were arrested. Is this true?*

AL: Yes during the recent blockade they pulled by our hands into the cars and they said that they were going to arrest us. But when we reached the police station, because they are ashamed and shy they said, "We are not going to arrest the women."

AC: It is a great honour for us to be with such brave and strong women.

PA: *Is there a message they would like to share with the people in the west who are concerned for the welfare of the Penan?*

Libai Uwe: The only thing that I would like to say is that we would like them to tell the timber companies, to tell our government to ask the timber companies to go away from our area because we have so many problems.

...If the people in the far away countries would like to see us living, then they should not buy timber from our country.

If they continue to extract logs and timber from our area, our lives will wither like the leaves of the trees, like fish without water. Our life depends on all the products in the jungle like rattan, animals, fish and many other things.

...Even though how angry we are, we say these harsh words, we are like animals that have no teeth, we are like an animal that has no claws.



Bruno Manser, long time defender of the Penan people in Malaysia, has returned to Switzerland.

Regarded as a subversive element by Malaysian authorities, he has given a press conference for the Society for Threatened Peoples in Zurich. He has appealed for a continued push for a ban on tropical timbers from Malaysia, and a dialogue with the Malaysian government. He intends to continue supporting the cause of the Penan in Europe.

In an interview he described the Penan as the "professors of the jungle" and said that the authorities in Sarawak should not feel ashamed to have the Penan living in their country. Even the Sarawak government, he said, are our sisters and brothers.

"To renounce the use of tropical wood alone is not enough" declared Manser. "I want above all to appeal to leading politicians ...to call on the chief minister of the Sarawak government to consciously look at the situation."

"The general public as well as international organisations should in mutual agreement plan actions in order to obtain a maximum effect with a minimum expenditure."

"For financial help we open a donation account in my name. I must and will be answerable for the use of this money. (Bruno Manser Fond GZB 4002 Basel Acc.421'329.30.00.00-8 Pc-Kto 40-8888-1)

Note: Bruno is currently on a tour which has taken him to speaking engagements in Japan and Australia. He will also be travelling to the USA and Canada.



## "Borneo Post" Claims ITTO Mission Approval for Sarawak Logging.

The International Tropical Timber Organisation (ITTO) mission to Sarawak "gave top marks for Sarawak's forest management system" according to an article in the Borneo Post (1-4-90)

*The article appeared on April 1st.*

The report on the mission's findings, though it dodged the real issues and shied away from unreserved criticism of Sarawak forestry practices, could hardly be said to give "top marks" to forest management in Sarawak.



# UNDER THE TROPICAL FORESTRY ACTION PLAN LOGGING IN PRIMARY FORESTS WILL INTENSIFY....

## Tropical Forestry Action Plan - Five Years On

by Carol Sherman

The Tropical Forestry Action Plan (TFAP), was launched in 1985 by the World Resource Institute, The United Nations Development Project (UNDP), The Food and Agriculture Organisation (FAO) and the World Bank, ostensibly to fund the protection of the Earth's tropical forests.

The TFAP intends to spend some US\$8 billion in forestry. Some 73 tropical forest countries accounting for over 85% of all tropical forests have expressed an interest in participating in the TFAP process.

Since its inception the TFAP has been widely criticized by non-government organizations (NGOs), for its primary focus on funding commercial forestry and wood based industries, paying little attention to the needs of local peoples and forest dwellers and failing to identify the real causes of deforestation. Conservation plans are inadequately addressed whilst many country plans advocate the opening up of large areas of primary forest to industrial timber operations.

Although some of the criticisms raised by NGOs of the TFAP have resulted in few changes, the general picture is bleak for the safety of tropical forests and local peoples. Jim Douglas, from the World Bank (Bulletin. 29.8.89), says of the TFAP, "...We're looking to clean up our act in a major way. It is a perfect opportunity to come up with new ideas and policies the like of which we should see a lot more of from the Bank in the future". But unfortunately, the TFAP has failed to come up with innovative ideas for conservation and sustainability. Instead it is dominated by concerns of profit making and conventional forestry.

## INCREASES IN LOGGING UNDER THE TFAP.

In a recent analysis of the TFAP, "What Progress?" Marcus Colchester, from the World Rainforest Movement, and Larry Lohmann, found that the plan is facilitating substantially increased financing of unsustainable forestry projects whilst not addressing the root causes of deforestation.

It incorporates massive increases in logging in many of the National Forestry Action Plans despite the fact that there is no convincing evidence that commercial logging can be made both sustainable and economically viable. Logging will be substantially increased in presently unex-

ploited primary forest in step with policies of industrial expansion. Many of the national plans ignore politically delicate issues such as the causes of landlessness - the main factor causing the rural poor to colonize the rainforests, and fail to challenge the national and international projects and policies that are leading to deforestation. The issue of equitable redistribution of land and rights to forests has not been properly addressed at any stage of the TFAP process, even though these issues are central to sustainable development.



## Exploitation Of Third World Resources.

The Forest Management for Industrial Uses section in the TFAP, clearly shows how the multilateral agencies perceive tropical rainforests purely as an economic resource. In Brazil it is proposed that 5 million ha of Amazon Forest be brought under control and management, whilst in Ecuador about 1 million ha of natural forest in the Esmeraldas region is to be brought under management. India is to bring an additional 30 million hectares of natural forest under management whilst in the Congo it is the same story. Meanwhile, focus on conservation has been incredibly low.

In PNG, Brian Brunton in his scathing critique of the World Bank's TFAP Review for that country, states that the Review has failed to identify and specify the forces that pose a threat to the PNG rainforest. He looks on the capital based industries of the First World as one of the unexamined threats and sees that the TFAP for PNG has all markings of supplying the developed countries with cheap raw materials. He says "the TFAP Report treats tropical rainforests as a resource on which to base an export industry". Whilst PNG is held up as a successful case study by the Bank with components of World Heritage Listing and conservation initiatives, very little discussion has been held on these is-



sues with vital matters such as the role of land owners in conservation areas not having been considered.

In Ghana, the National Forestry Action Plan focuses heavily on the promotion of logging. It is primarily concerned with developing the nation's timber industry, which is likely to result in continued over-logging and destruction of Ghana's remaining natural forests. Nowhere has the focus been to identify or check the main causes of deforestation, with no acknowledgement being made to the fact that deforestation may be connected to social inequities, land rights issues or export-orientated economic policies.

It is clear that the TFAP is primarily concerned with the efficiency of the timber industry in tropical countries and geared exclusively towards dealing with central governments. It has indeed shown itself after 5 years to have very little to do with its basic premise of protection of our forests.

## NGO INVOLVEMENT.

One concession that the Bank has been proudly drawing attention to in recent times is its willingness to liaise with non-government organizations. President of the World Bank, Mr Conable has encouraged Bank staff to "initiate a broadened dialogue with NGOs" and stated that he fully expected collaboration to flourish. Several reviews of Bank-assisted projects have confirmed the importance of beneficiary organizations to the success and sustainability of many development activities. Yet the TFAP has been devised with almost no consultation with NGOs nor with community based organizations. Although involvement with NGOs has varied from country to country, where there has been some involvement by NGOs, it has usually been confined to the final phases of planning.

In PNG the TFAP has not been made available to the public even though the issues discussed are of vital concern to all Papua New Guineans. B. Brunton notes in his critique that although the reason for such secrecy is to some extent due to bureaucratic habits within PNG, the secrecy of the World Bank legitimizes these actions.

Meanwhile out of 10 African countries preparing national plans, only Burkina Faso and Zaire involved national NGOs in the TFAP process, whilst in South America there has only been limited or late participation by NGOs in Ecuador, Honduras, Columbia, and Peru. Venezuela and Argentina had no NGOs involved at any stage.

## WIDESPREAD FAILURES LEAD TO CALL FOR MORATORIUM.

The TFAP fails to meet its goals of checking deforestation and fails to promote multi-disciplinary and cross-sectoral planning, designed to encourage a democratic development process in which local people have a decisive voice in the formulation of policy about resource use in their areas. It fails to allow freedom of

information, although this is an essential prerequisite to ensure success of any project that involves the community. In all, the TFAP seems likely to accelerate rather than curb deforestation.

It is for these reasons that the World Rainforest Movement is calling for a moratorium of international funding for the Tropical Forestry Action Plan. They are calling on donors to cease channelling their aid monies through the TFAP until it is completely restructured. They call for logging operations to be massively scaled down, while demanding that funding or technical facilities not be made available to promote commercial logging in primary forests.

## What You Can Do:

Write now to the World Bank and our own respective governors and governments to ensure that the TFAP addresses the vital issues of forest conservation and local community sustainability rather than export orientated, commercial logging operations in the name of sustainable development.

**Mr Conable**  
President, World Bank  
1818 H St. NW,  
Washington DC 20433

**Mr. R Carling**  
Australian Alternate  
Executive Director  
The World Bank,  
1818 H St., NW  
Washington DC USA

Mr Paul Keating Australian Governor to the  
World Bank Parliament House Canberra, ACT 2600.

### Acknowledgements:

Marcus Colchester, Larry Lohmann "The Tropical Forestry Action Plan: What Progress?" (Published by the World Rainforest Movement and the Ecologist. See below.)

Brian D Brunton. "Critique of the World Bank's Tropical Forestry Action Plan Review for Papua New Guinea."

George Marshall "The World Bank Tropical Forestry Action Plan for Papua New Guinea: A Critique." (Rainforest Information Centre)

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73476 Fax: 0258 73748 Email: gn:ecologist





# SUSTAINABILITY

The term sustainability is now used in almost everything written or spoken about the management of tropical forests. The International Tropical Timber Organisation, for example, has adopted guidelines which call for all tropical timber traded on the international market to be from "sustainable sources". Confusion exists about what this means.

## The Meaning of Sustainability

The word "sustainable" is often used without explanation. The following may clarify its use with respect to rainforest:

**"...The phrase, as made popular by the Brundtland Commission, refers to the means by which development is made to meet the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs."**

"Since the needs of future generations are undefinable and the future potential for wealth generation of species and ecosystems are equally unknowable, the term apparently implies that total biological assets are not reduced, in the long term, through use."

"In terms of tropical forests, sustainable use includes not just maintaining timber resources and conserving biological diversity, but also maintaining the ecological functions of forests such as soil quality, hydrological cycles, climate and weather, downstream fisheries, as well as maintaining supplies of other forest products - game, fruits, nuts, resins, dyes, basts, constructional materials, fuelwood, etc - essential to the livelihoods of local people. Logging, which inevitably simplifies forest ecosystems, can never be sustainable in such terms."

**"A much more limited notion, that of 'sustained yield management' is often confused with the wider concept of sustainability. 'Sustained yield management' refers only to logging prescriptions which do not remove more volume of timber than a forest is capable of regenerating on a continuing basis."**

(from *"The TFAP: What Progress?"* By Marcus Colchester and Larry Lohmann, published by the World Rainforest Movement and the Ecologist Magazine.)

## The Duncan Poore Study

The ITTO sponsored a study, headed by Duncan Poore, into the world's sustainable management of tropical forests. (see Len Webb's article in WRR13). It concluded that the area being managed sustainably was "on a world scale, negligible."

This was hardly welcome news for an organisation promoting world trade in tropical timber, and as Marcus Colchester points out, the study "reveals itself to be part of a campaign with a different objective" than that of unbiased investigation. Poore himself says in his final chapter that his aim is to "generate a sense of urgent but qualified optimism" about the tropical timber industry. This is as dangerous move, says Colchester: "If



Poore is wrong, and sustainable logging is an illusion, then encouraging logging rather than calling for its halt is bound to hasten the forests' demise."

Poore notes in the first chapter of the study that technical constraints, although they certainly exist, are much less important than those that are political, economic and social." In spite of this, the study makes no attempt to offer suggestions on how to deal with these non-technical constraints. One can only assume that in saying sustainable management is possible, Poore assumes that these other problems have been solved and he is talking only about the technical ones.

It is to Australia that the proponents of sustainable logging have turned for their prime example of sustainable logging of tropical forests. Because Australia is not subject to the social, economic and political constraints that make control of Third World forests so difficult, it is a good case to examine to see if the purely technical constraints can be overcome.

## The Demise of the Queensland Model

Poore's study supported the Queensland Forest Service's own claims that their management of North Queensland's forests was an example of sustained yield timber harvesting. This claim has been conclusively refuted in a paper presented at the recent ITTO meeting in Bali by Aila Keito of the Rainforest Conservation Society of Queensland. Duncan Poore was at the presentation and acknowledged that "there are problems with the Queensland model."

An examination of the paper suggests that this is a gross understatement.

It is beyond the scope of this article to deal with the paper in detail, but copies are available on request from the Rainforest Information Centre.

## Conclusion

So it remains to be established whether the "much less important" technical problems to sustained yield timber harvesting can be overcome in tropical forest. Even if it was possible, the daunting task of dealing with the social, political and economic factors would remain. The only sensible choice is therefore to declare a moratorium on the logging of primary tropical forest.

**Sources:** Poore, Duncan: *No Timber Without Trees*. Earthscan Publications, London. (252pp)

Colchester, Marcus: *Can Tropical Forests Be Sustainably Managed?* Third World Network Features 87 Cantonment Rd. Penang, Malaysia.

Keito, A.; Scott, K.; Olsen, M.: *Sustainable Harvesting of Tropical Forest: A Reassessment*.



# A POLICY FOR TRADING IN SUSTAINABLY PRODUCED TROPICAL TIMBER

*We have had a number of enquiries about the Ecological Trading Company.. For those interested, this is our company manifesto. As the discussion about sustainable timber operations seems to be hotting up this may now be of general interest. Comments/criticisms welcome {They are also welcomed by WRR -Editor}*

- Chris Cox, Hubert Kwisthout.

*In the United Kingdom there are many hundreds of timber importing companies. Why should we want to establish yet another, particularly one that will import tropical timber?*

The timber trade has in recent years come under much criticism because of its alleged contribution to the destruction of tropical rainforests.

We believe that although the trade has been - and still is - part of the problem, it also has the potential to become part of the solution. By establishing and making a success of the **ECOLOGICAL TRADING COMPANY** or **E.T.C.**, we want to demonstrate this.

## How Will We Achieve This?

The Ecological Trading Company will differ from existing timber importers in a number of ways:

**1. The E.T.C. will only import timber from sustainable sources.**

Existing companies buy from wherever they can. The price, quality and appearance of the timber are usually the only criteria. As companies are interested in the results rather than the methods of production, the question of whether or not the timber comes from a sustainable source is not on the agenda.

**2. The E.T.C. will guarantee the sustainability of the timber it sells.** The timber will be labelled and a full

description of its production methods will be available at the point of sale.

Existing companies say very little about the origins and methods of production of their timbers. The timber is not FSC labelled, its sources cannot be identified, and information about the circumstances under which it is produced is therefore not available.



**3. The E.T.C. intends to trade directly with producers and maintain a close relationship with them.** Existing importers generally have only tenuous links with their sources, as most buying is done through agents. Because of the involvement of so many different people on various levels, companies have limited information on and virtually no control over what is going on at the actual production site.

**4. The E.T.C. will endeavour to give producers substantially higher prices than usual for their timber on the condition that they operate a sustainable management plan.**

At present producers tend to get very low prices for their timber. It is usually sold and re-sold several times before it finally reaches the consumers. The low purchase price means not only that the producers cannot afford sustainable management - there is also no incentive for them to do so.

**5. The E.T.C. will actively promote the so-called secondary species.** This will not only help to relieve the pressure on commonly used species, but will also ensure a more balanced use of forest resources.

Existing companies have tended to promote and sell only those species which they have always promoted and sold. This led to uneven exploitation of the forests and caused immense waste as unknown timbers were ignored. The use of only a few dozen out of a potential of many thousands of species stems mainly from habit and a reluctance to try anything new.

**6. The E.T.C. will be able to take advantage of the growing green consumer movement, which demands that industry take environmental and social factors into account.** This is because we will give full consideration to these matters in designing our trading practices.

Existing companies tend to see the green consumer movement as a threat to their interests. They are unable to respond adequately to the demands from environmentalists due to their dependence on established trading practices.



Graphic by Elaine Kittredge, from 'the children's book Twelve'.



## Is Sustainable Tropical Forestry Even Possible?

Yes. There are many to intensive and complex plantation schemes. What they have in common is that they take a long-term perspective and meet these essential requirements: secure land tenure, commitment, planning and management.

Although sustainable production depends first and foremost on the 73 efforts of the producers, they are only the first link in a chain of interdependence which extends all the way to the consumers.

In the effort to develop sustainable production it is not enough to concentrate solely on the production side. Sustainability can only be achieved if it is supported by all the links in the chain.

At present such support is lacking. Until now the timber trade has been operating in a way that still bears the hallmarks of the colonial tradition in which it was established - based on low commodity prices, cheap labour, and with little regard for the social and natural environment of the communities that it affected.

The timber trade operates in a market system that is characterized by a fundamental inequality between the trading partners. The E.T.C. will develop trading links between producers and consumers based upon principles that are environmentally sound and socially just.

### How Do We Intend To Work?

The E.T.C. will assist forestry projects that produce tropical timbers on a sustainable basis within the framework of a long-term management plan. It will do so by:

1. **Buying timber from existing projects at prices which enable the implementation of such plans to continue.**

2. **Providing an incentive for the creation of new sustainable forestry projects by offering a reliable market for their timber.** This will provide a realistic alternative to current, environmentally unsound land use practices.

The E.T.C. can purchase timbers from any source that fulfils our criteria. We are, however, particularly interested in forestry projects that are part of wider development schemes aimed at a general improvement in living standards. We seek to co-operate with development agencies that are involved in such schemes.

Producers often have to operate under difficult circumstances. The establishment of forestry projects and the creation of the conditions for export-oriented local enterprises are complex matters. The usual demands of the export market add to this complexity. The E.T.C. feels that these demands must not force producers to compromise their commitment to sustainability. Therefore we will adapt our trade agreements to the ability of the producers to supply, rather than impose our demands on them. This flexibility will amongst other things refer to the quantities of timber involved and the frequency of supply.

We believe that sustainable forestry can only succeed when it is based on sufficient participation from local populations. However, any lasting success cannot be achieved unless it also has the support of national and regional authorities. It is governments that must provide the overall framework - legal and otherwise - which will



73 guarantee that long-term development can take place. The E.T.C. will seek to co-operate with any such authority.

### How Can We Ensure That Our Timber Is Sustainably Produced?

The sustainability of our timber sources is the prime distinction between the E.T.C. and other timber companies. It is essential to be able to verify this

*This will be done in the following ways:*

1. **An initial assessment of the management plans.** A convincing plan is a precondition of E.T.C. involvement. Before entering into a trade agreement with any project, we will consult a number of independent advisers.

2. **Monitoring of the implementation of management plans.** This will be achieved by regular visits to the production site by E.T.C. representatives, supplemented by information from third parties.

The E.T.C. will reserve the right to suspend or withdraw from transactions with producers should their production methods contravene agreements.

## THE ECOLOGICAL TRADING COMPANY

1 Lesbury Rd, Newcastle upon Tyne, NE6 5LB,  
United Kingdom. Tel : 091 276 5547 Fax: 091 265 4

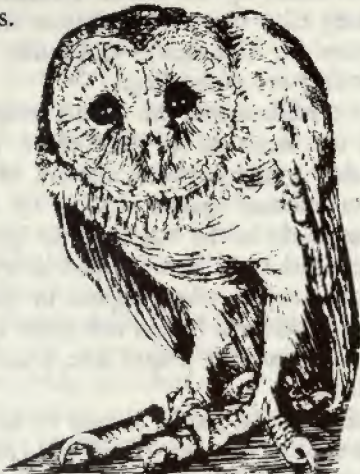




# Australia

## TIMBER SHIP BLOCKADES AND OTHER ACTIONS

Blockades of ships carrying rainforest timber into Australia have continued. Melbourne Rainforest Action Group has so far blockaded eleven ships. (See WRR15 for details of previous actions) This tactic has been most effective in gaining widespread publicity and support for opposing rainforest timber imports, as well as increasing the price of the imported timber. Perhaps activists in other countries could adopt similar methods.



### Recent Actions:

The Mitsubishi company sponsored an open air concert attended by 30,000 people to open this year's Adelaide Arts Festival. The highlight of the evening was a spectacular fireworks display over the Derwent River, and all the eyes and cameras watching were rewarded with the sight of Adelaide RAG's eight metre water borne banner declaring, "Mitsubishi Destroys Rainforest". The publicity hungry company received the boos and jeers it deserves.

Brisbane RAG greeted a tropical timber ship at Brett's Wharves in Brisbane early in February. The captain was friendly and co-operative and let the RAG group place a banner and rainbow flag on board.

On the 19th of February 25 activists in kayaks blockaded the timber ship "Mayfair" for three hours in Darling Harbour, Sydney. The action was organised by Sydney RAG with special guest appearances from Melbourne RAG and Brisbane RAG members. The action began before sunrise and culminated in 7 paddlers being trapped between the ship and the wharf. Despite a police warning that they would be arrested

unless they moved, two of the protesters stayed where they were until police divers were called in. Although several activists were detained by police, there were no arrests. The blockade received TV coverage all over Australia, and in London.

The unfortunate "Mayfair" was again met by protesters when it entered the Yarra River to make its way into Melbourne four days later. Once again there were no arrests, but it was a different story when members of MRAG scaled a fence at Victoria Docks, intending to write the words, "Don't buy this timber" with wood unloaded from the "Mayfair". There were 16 arrests.

On the 9th of April, the "Fittonia" was blockaded in Melbourne. There were 100 protesters, 55 of them in the water. An inflatable "earth", five metres in diameter was placed in front of the ship, symbolising "the lumbering juggernaut of capitalist civilisation on a collision course with planet Earth." The Earth survived the collision and was carried in a procession to Timbersales, Melbourne's largest timber merchant, where a minute's silence was observed to mourn the destruction of the rainforests.

The campaign in Victoria has resulted in the Building Workers' Industrial Union banning the use of imported 373 rainforest timbers on all construction sites in Victoria, the decision by the three largest plywood manufacturers in the state not to use rainforest timbers in the manufacture of plywood, and increasing evidence of consumer boycotts of rainforest timbers.

## Adelaide Botanic Garden and Mitsubishi:

The Adelaide Botanic Gardens has built a tropical rainforest conservatory as a Bicentennial Project. This Bicentennial Conservatory carries sponsorship from over a dozen companies, including Mitsubishi.

Members of Adelaide RAG were incensed that the Botanic Gardens Board had taken sponsorship from a company such as Mitsubishi. Approached the board did not receive a satisfactory response and a "protest picnic" was held in the parklands near the Conservatory. A three-panel, free-standing display, outlined Japan's role in Rainforest destruction, Mitsubishi's involvement, and the connection with the Conservatory. The issue was further publicised with street theatre and a petition received wide TV coverage. A subsequent protest involving occupation of the Conservatory.

Extract from the local newspaper report on the issue:

"...However, the 60-member State branch of Rainforest Action, a national conservation group, said yesterday it would not rule out pickets and protests outside the conservatory as a result of the decision.



## Australia (cont'd)

The group had asked the board to remove the Mitsubishi logo from information pamphlets on the conservatory and from a brass plaque outside the building.

The request was in a letter to the board, which says Mitsubishi Corporation Japan, has operated a subsidiary logging company, Daiya Malaysia, in Malaysia for the past 15 years and that it has a 90,000 ha logging concession in Sarawak. RAG spokesperson Mr Ian Grayson said the board's decision was "environmental dynamite". "The linking of the international Mitsubishi logo with rainforest conservation when it's actually clearing them is subverting the truth, he said.

Mitsubishi Motors Australia spokesman Mr Charles Iles said the company has "no involvement with rainforest timbers" Mitsubishi Corporation, Japan, had established a global environmental committee to deal with environmental issues.



## COURT CHALLENGE OVER FOREST INDUSTRIES ADS

Conservationists have begun a Federal court challenge to the Forest Industries Australia-wide media campaign.

The campaign, launched on March 4th, involves a TV commercial, radio and newspaper advertisements and an 'information kit'. These present the Forest Industries case justifying current logging practices in native forests throughout Australia.

The challenge has been mounted by the South West Forests Defence Foundation Inc, a conservation advocacy group based in West Australia, which is seeking an injunction under the Trade Practices Act to stop further publication of statements which it claims are false, misleading or deceptive - or are likely to mislead or deceive.

The defendants are Bunnings Forest Products Pty Ltd, a member of the Western Australian Forest products Association - and the Forest Products Industry Association (F.I.C.A.), a company registered in Victoria which conducts the Forest Industries public relations activities.

The statements challenged are:

- \* less than 30% of Australia's public native forests are available for wood production.

- \* of this area, only 1% is logged in any one year.

- \* there is no logging in national parks.

Beth Schultz, President of the South West Forests Defence Foundation Inc, said today: "On their own figures, 78% of Australia's public native forests are available for logging. In WA, the area logged in 1988 was five times what the advertisement would have us believe. Moreover, there have been several recent cases of logging in National Parks in different parts of Australia. For instance, I myself have seen logging in Warren National Park in the south west of W.A."

Spokesperson for the Conservation Council of the South East Region & Canberra, Sid Walker, said today: "The case which our friends in W.A. have lodged today has not been easy to assemble. Conservationists dispute many of the claims made by the Forest Industries in their latest advertising blitz, but most have been skillfully worded and may be technically defensible even though, in our view, they are misleading."

"However, we are confident that the Forest Industries have overstepped the mark in at least three cases. These are reasonably straightforward matters of fact. We would like to take action against some of the other preposterous claims made in the ads, such as 'governments and the Forest Industries have learned to operate a harvesting cycle that copies what happens in nature'. These may form the basis for a formal complaint to the Advertising Standards Council at a later date, if such action proves necessary."

Mr Walker continued: "The public should be also be aware that this is a contest between David and Goliath. Waging this court action will stretch to the limit the resources of this brave group of conservationists in W.A. Sympathetic members of the public are encouraged to donate to the South West Forests Defence Foundation Inc which is fighting on behalf of all Australians for our common native forest heritage."

FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT:

SID WALKER (C.C.S.E.R.C.).....06 - 257 6646 or 247 7808 (w); 06 - 248 9243 (h)

BETH SCHULTZ (S.W.F.D.F.).... 09 - 328 3155 (w); 09 - 386 7159(h)





# Australia (cont'd)

## CHAE LUNDI: Non Violent Action?

Chaelundi is a 30,000 hectare state forest 70 kl South west of Grafton on the N.S.W. North coast. The N.S.W. Forestry Commission had just started logging at the edge of an 8,000 hectare section that had never seen a chainsaw and was planning to carve an 8 km logging road through its heart.

Recent studies have shown this forest to contain the highest population and most varied array of arboreal mammals in S.E. Australia. The Environmental Planning and Assessments act requires by law that the F.C. do an Environmental Impact Study (E.I.S.) before any significant damage is done to sensitive forests. The F.C. yet again neglected to fulfill this requirement and was therefore operating illegally.

The North East Forest Alliance (N.E.F.A.) with the election looming decided on a blockade of Chaelundi State forest. N.E.F.A. had not adopted all the principles of N.V.A., such as openness and non secrecy. After much discussion on the pros and cons it was decided to be open and a press release was circulated identifying the time, place and reasons for our actions. This gave us some important first favorable reporting of the issue.

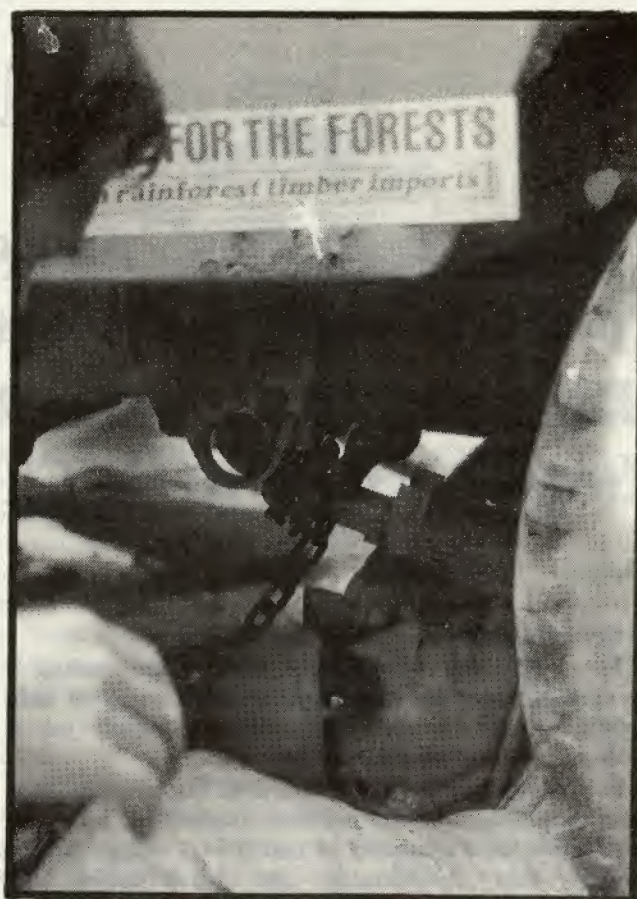
Rain stopped logging on the first day which allowed for much valuable dialogue with the F.C. and the contractors. The F.C. then decided to close the forests to everyone including the Media and wait it out till Monday. The blockade continued. We told the Police and F.C. we were committed to a N.V. blockade of the access road while we waited for an injunction to be heard in Sydney in the next couple of days.

Mondays action went smoothly and as planned. Ten people calling themselves the Earth Police tried to make a citizens arrest on the head forester, claiming that the operation was illegal. Police dragged cars off the road and peacefully arrested 9 people for sitting and singing on a blockade of logs. Two others were arrested after chaining themselves to cars.

Positive peaceful images and stories were sent to all local media and Sydney TV stations. The message of illegal logging in Chaelundi soon became common knowledge.

The next day didn't go quite so smoothly.

There seemed to be a distinct lack of enthusiasm in the air to organise a circle and plan an appropriate action for the day. What followed was a spontaneous and secretive direct action with the expected result. While I was organising my camera a logging truck approached. Someone yelled out lets blockade it. Spontaneously people wondered on to the road and stopped the truck. A couple of brave wimmin crawled under the stationary truck and chained



*Eco Guru checks suspension of Green Mobile during Chaelundi Forest Action.*

their necks to the front axle. About 10 contractors came bolting towards the truck thinking that the protesters may have been about to damage the truck. People were very nearly bashed and necks stretched as tempers flared. There were no police present yet luckily for us we had a few cameras which probably stopped blood flowing that day. After that dust had settled some others attempted another spontaneous blockade of some macho contractors. Six people were nearly run over as the contractor ploughed through. The message that went out on the news that night was, violence in the forests and just showed an angry confrontation between two divided groups of people.

Rather than have the earth irreparably damaged in ten years I would like to see a society which found it totally unacceptable for any consumer item or industry to be in any way involved in damaging our environment. To achieve this goal we must convince people that the earth is threatened and inspire them to get involved. N.V.A. is a complete strategy to help bring about this green revolution.

John Lennon says there are no problems only solutions. N.V.A. says that there are no enemies only future converts.

Jefferys

- Dean





# India

## WORLD BANK PRESSES AHEAD WITH THE INTERNATIONALLY RECOGNIZED DISASTROUS SADAR SAROVAR PROJECT

By Carol Sherman

The World Bank recognizes that it has backed a project that is causing widespread controversy on both economic, social and environmental fronts, yet it refuses to cancel all undisbursed loans.

Is it enough for lobbyists and activists to accept that the dam WILL be built because construction has been continuing over a number of years? Is it enough just to ensure that resettlement and rehabilitation will proceed in a humane manner, if it proceeds at all? And is it enough for us to press for environmental studies to be completed, and compensation plans implemented? Can we guarantee that the World Bank will not embark on any further major dam schemes?

Some activists have written this project off as a lost cause, and believe they can only press for better conditions. But many of the 100,000 people to be affected and their supporters are daily increasing pressure to stop the construction of the dam. Discussed here are some potent reasons why the World Bank should cancel the remainder of its loans to this so-called development.

The Sardar Sarovar Project (SSP) in Gujarat, western India, is a combined power and water development project which is expected to provide electricity and water to the states of Gujarat, Madhya Pradesh (MP), Maharashtra and Rajasthan for a cost of US\$11.4 billion. It is also expected to displace 90,000 people and inundate up to 13,000 hectares of forest. Although the government of Gujarat touts this project as the "lifeline of Gujarat" which will end water shortages permanently and claims that 75 of the command area is drought-prone, independent studies have shown that at least 66% of the drought prone areas in the state will receive no water from SSP, that 66% of the command area is neither drought prone nor arid and that the main beneficiaries of the project are going to be people in the rich central districts of Gujarat, where a large proportion of Gujarat's water resources are already concentrated.

Water scarcity is a serious problem for large sections of the population of Gujarat. However, this project will not be the answer and will leave little funding for any



other development projects. Alternatives were not adequately reviewed by the World Bank or Indian state governments. Yet statistics prove that canal irrigation projects have a very poor record in India. By 1986, out of 246 large scale irrigation projects started since 1951, 181 were still incomplete.

Even though the Bank has repeatedly declared its heightened concern over both social and environmental aspects of development projects, credibility has been lost by the continued funding for the project.

Having recently returned from a visit to India, including the Badwani region in Madhya Pradesh (MP), it is clear that opposition to the project is further increasing at all levels of society. Rallies of thousands and daily sit-ins are a continuous occurrence. In the tribal areas there have been major protests while musclemen associated with the dam contractors have been attacking villages located close to the actual dam site causing greater chaos. It is obvious that little headway has been made in areas of resettlement and rehabilitation (R&R) in all three states, or on matters of environmental planning or dialogue with local peoples.

After four years of project approval, while the dam continues to be built, crucial studies and action plans are incomplete; some have not even been started. The Bank seems to have put negligible emphasis on completion of studies relating to environmental issues.

Lastly, for over a year now, some Bank staff have admitted that the original cost/benefit analysis may be obsolete and have talked about a review of the cost benefit analysis. Issues questioned include costs such as measures to mitigate public health impacts, the full costs of R&R, the environmental and economic cost of



# India (cont'd)

forest submergence, and the value of prime agricultural land in the submergence area of MP. Indian NGOs have repeatedly claimed that projected crop yields for the irrigated area are exaggerated. It must be asked why the Bank is disbursing money to a project whose economic viability is now even questioned by various Bank staff.

Instead of pouring money into the SSP, the Bank should fund a review of all incomplete projects, and facilitate the completion of unfinished projects which are environmentally and socially sound. Loans from the Bank should be directed towards research into small scale, community based alternative irrigation projects, and develop energy conservation strategies.

We must make sure that pressure remains on the Bank to withdraw funding for this project. On a scale that entails so much personal and ecological destruction, it is not enough to concede defeat on this particular issue yet claim that the Bank will not dare fund something of this calibre again. A campaign of non cooperation and non-violent action continues to be waged inside India. Let us make sure we stand in solidarity by calling for an immediate cancellation of undisbursed loans for the Saradar Sarovar Project.

*Further information available from: Ms Carol Sherman. PO BOX 161 Byron Bay. NSW 2481.*

## Help needed for Botanical Sanctuary in Southern India.

Carol Sherman.

We finally got down from the rickety crowded bus a few kilometres outside a tiny village called Periyar, in Kerala, southern India. After hours of travelling through the mist enshrouded mountains, once majestic, now covered by tea bushes, we felt the intrusion of man all around. In a landscape that still enraptures the soul, we could only sigh for the lost species that were chopped away for our eternal hot drinks.

The purpose of our journey was to find Wolfgang, a German Swami, who had created a botanical sanctuary over the past twenty years. A recent letter from him had informed me of his large collection of orchids, and of the varied plant species that he is nurturing and saving from the plundered nearby forests. High in the mountains, surrounded by wildlife reserves and jungle, Wolfgang was witnessing daily the increase of encroachers. Large tracts of pristine forest had been cut open for eucalypt plantations close by. The massive scar in the forest echoed the situation all over India, where eucalypts native to Australia, have devastated huge areas overseas. India is still ripping out its own natural forests for industrial based commercial logging.

When we arrived at the Sanctuary, we were surprised to see at least six others who had also just appeared from around the globe. Some were there to work in the



sanctuary and learn everything that Wolfgang had to offer. He needs helpers, who can support him in his work. The constant nurturing of young plants, seed collection, identification, storage, gardening, plantings all take people power. While at times he has help, much of the year he is on his own with his small family. Local Indians are loathe to stay at his sanctuary for long periods, mainly because of the degree of isolation, with no major towns being close by, and because Wolfgang cannot offer wages.

In his article "Plants in Danger. What Can we do?", he writes, "...we are passing through a period which could be called the 'Dark Ages of Life'.

"What is important now is to traverse this time with the least irreparable damage. It is the extinction of species which has to be dreaded and utmost effort is required to prevent the catastrophe. There is nobody who does not have a share in the responsibility for life.

"To inform oneself and others is one way of meeting the challenge. One can also give moral, financial, or active support to the numerous national and international programmes and organizations for the preservation of nature. One can render the most important help passively by refusing to buy products which result directly or indirectly from the destruction of natural resources.....there is nobody who cannot do something to save life, to save the Earth and to save ourselves".

The botanical sanctuary is a place inspired by love for the Earth. It needs both financial and physical support to ensure its survival and therefore the survival of countless endangered plant species. Write directly to Wolfgang for more information about his work or about volunteering your services, to:

Wolfgang Theverkauf Narayana Gurukula Alattil PO North Wynad, Kerala.

Donations to the Sanctuary can be made payable to the Rainforest Information Centre, PO Box 368 Lismore, NSW 2480, clearly stating where the monies be directed.





## India (cont'd)

# Vandana Shiva And the Chipko Movement.

Vandana Shiva is one of the world's most prominent radical scientists and a campaigner on the issues of women, ecology and development and on the environmental impact of science and technology policy.

She is a quantum physicist turned people's scientist and she has the passion and conviction of a convert - though her ideological enemies might call her a recidivist.

Her road to Damascus was the journey back from Ontario, where she did a doctorate in quantum theory, to her native Uttar Pradesh, northern India; her flash of light was an encounter with rural women of that region involved in Chipko, a mass women's protest against deforestation and resulting ecological destruction.

In her book "Staying Alive; Women, Ecology and Development" she defines the links between ecological crisis, colonialism and the oppression of women.

"I was studying the history of science and came across Bacon's 'The Masculine Birth of Time'. I began to realize how many very conscious statements were made at the time of the Enlightenment about the death of the feminine.

"Nature, women and culture other than the dominant Western culture were all turned into passive and inert resources by this new reductionist perspective, which then asserted itself as a value free perspective, as a universal truth which allowed no room for other forms of knowledge, other sciences, other ways of interpreting the world."

**Shiva considers development as applied in the Third World the most brutal facet of this patriarchal system. She terms it "maldevelopment" because it "makes the colonizing male the agent and the model of 'development'.**

"Women, the Third World and nature become underdeveloped, first by definition, then through the process of colonization, in reality."

What Shiva proposes is an alternative vision, one inspired by the women of Chipko.

The Chipko movement is outstanding for its widespread, grassroots women's involvement.

In 1974, in the Reni forests of the Chamoli District of Uttar Pradesh, the women were confronted with the prospect of 2,500 trees being destroyed for commercial exploitation. When the contractors arrived the women went into the forests, joined hands and "hugged" the trees ("Chipko" means "to hug").

The contractors withdrew and the forest was saved. The Chipko movement grew out of this protest. It now spans the whole Himalayan region. 33 Chipko is Shiva's model both for resistance and for change: she is a spokesperson for the movement.

Her book is full of references to woman's ability to empathise with nature, her ability to sustain life.

Was there a danger in emphasizing woman's role as producer, sustainer and nurturer, of reinforcing the



reasons for women's oppression? Would it be more productive to get away from the duality of masculinity and femininity?

"In Indian cosmology, we have Purusha and Prakriti. Prakriti is the feminine force, the force of nature; it is a unifying force and

it is in women and men.

"There can be no dualism because Prakriti sustains life, not as some kind of esoteric construction but as an everyday concept which organizes daily life.

"A Chipko woman who worships a tree goddess doesn't separate the sacred from the secular; that worship forms part of the strength of her daily life and resistance.

**"Those strands of western eco-feminism which pick a mother earth goddess to worship just lead to a dislocated politics of escapism; they don't reduce the space for the exploiter because their struggle is not rooted in immediate daily survival."**

A study of Chipko by a group of Pakistani women environmentalists concluded that it arose out of a specific cultural and religious context which could not be "transplanted".

So what are the alternative routes for global resistance to environmental exploitation?

"It's about tapping that sensitivity which is already there, finding that extra bit of energy to mobilize, rather than just feeling terrible and miserable, and incapacitated. Globally we are so linked; the linkage of who lives how at whose cost is a critical one for everybody."

Shiva does see a new solidarity emerging around ecological struggle, because, she feels, we are far down the road to destruction.

"I think we are entering a new period of eco-imperialism, when the dominant powers and industrial interests sense they are losing control slightly. I do not believe theirs can be a genuine concern.

Hope lies in the recovery of the feminine principle.

To be fully human involves respecting life and acting on principles emergent from that respect for life - to me that is the basis of the ecological movement.

The fact that the movement has made the impact it has shows that when people have adequate information and the chance to act, they are, in increasing numbers, saying no to the destruction of life.

"In the end this is about our democratic, as well as biological, survival."

(Edited version of an interview by Sara Dunn with Vandana Shiva from "The Canberra Times", 13th May, 1989.)

"Staying Alive - Women, Ecology and Survival in India" (224pp Zed Books Ltd., 57 Caledonian Rd., London N1 9BU) is available from The World Rainforest Movement, 87 Cantonment Rd., 10250 Penang, Malaysia.



# DEFENDING THE FOREST

*An excellent account of the  
courageous stand taken by local  
people to non-violently protect  
their local environment.*



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The quarterly publication of the Rainforest Information Centre the WORLD RAINFOREST REPORT is now circulated in over 80 countries, and reaches a readership of academics, activists and concerned people working to protect the worlds remaining tropical forests.

It is an authoritative source on the state of forest destruction, and on the various campaigns to halt this destruction. To quote Dr Paul Ehrlich, renowned biologist and author, " I think a lot of scientists like me depend on WORLD RAINFOREST REPORT for information on what's happening".

The WRR is also distributed free of charge to many organisations, especially those in the Third World. To maintain this service we need additional sponsorship.

We try to keep the subscription price and production costs down to the minimum. All work on the WRR is donated by volunteers.

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# World Roundup

## Tropical Timber ban in Massachusetts?

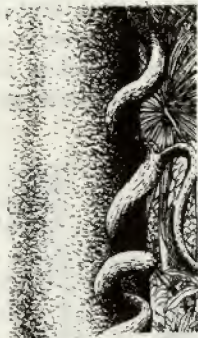
With the assistance of the Rainforest Action Network (RAN), Massachusetts State Representative Lawrence Alexander has drafted a bill that would prohibit the state from purchasing wood grown in tropical rainforest or products made up substantially of such wood. It is believed to be the first such bill to be introduced at the state level. RAN urges all concerned consumers to boycott tropical timber. As one of the world's largest consumers of tropical timber, the United States contributes directly to rainforest destruction. For more information on the boycott contact RAN.(301 Broadway Suite A, San Francisco, CA 94133 USA Tel (415)398 4404

ACTION ALERT ACTION ALERT  
ACTION ALERT ACTION ALERT

## Shell Eucalypt Plantation in Thailand

Royal Dutch Shell is intending to cover 200 square kilometres of Thailand with a eucalypt woodchip farm. It is highly unlikely that the primary tropical forests within the concession area would be unscathed or left standing. Despite reforestation hype the eucalypt plantations in Thailand cannot be likened to forests because they are razed every five or six years, which has disastrous ecological consequences. As well as this, about 3000 local people would be evicted from the Shell concession area.

If you are interested in shaming Shell out of this project with a action please contact Melbourne RAG, Joanna Sender



## Dharma Gaia:

**A Harvest of Essays in Buddhism and Ecology, edited by Allan Hunt Badiner (Parallax Press, \$15)**

Dharma Gaia explores the ground where Buddhism and ecology meet. The writings of thirty celebrated Buddhist thinkers and ecologists (including Gary Snyder, Thich Nhat Hanh, Joanna Macy, Joan Halifax, Robert Aitken, Bill Devall, John Seed, Rick Fields, and Danna Metzger) demonstrate how Buddhist philosophy and practices can help us to renew our relationships with one another, with other forms of life, and with the Earth. Meditation, shifting views of perception, and the emergence of an ecologically-minded community are among the themes discussed. With forward by the Dalai Lama.

## Weyerhaeuser Action Bulletin

In response to RAN's call for a tropical-timber boycott many RAN members have contacted Weyerhaeuser and been told that Weyerhaeuser doesn't import tropical hardwoods. This is not true. According to shipping documents obtained by RAN, Weyerhaeuser continues to be a major importer. Boycott Weyerhaeuser.



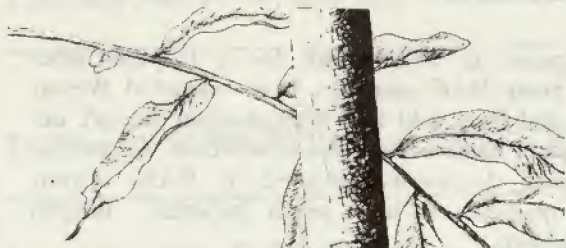


# World Roundup

## Effects on Carbon Storage of Conversion of Old-Growth Forests to Young Forests.

An article published in *Science*, Vol 247 (9 Feb 1990) debunks the currently fashionable suggestion that cutting down old-growth forests and replacing them with plantations is good for the planet because it increases the amount of carbon stored in trees rather than as CO<sub>2</sub> in the atmosphere.

The argument goes like this: Cut down an old growth forest, and store it in the form of furniture or houses so it won't decompose and put CO<sub>2</sub> into the atmosphere. Then grow a plantation where the old growth was, and because small trees grow into big trees, the amount of carbon they contain will increase. Add this to the carbon you have stored as furniture or houses and you have more carbon stored in wood and less in the atmosphere as harmful CO<sub>2</sub>.



Actually, it's not so simple. In the conversion of trees into houses, most of the wood is lost on the way in the form of branches, roots, bark, waste timber and saw dust, all of which decompose rapidly and end up as nasty CO<sub>2</sub> in the atmosphere. In the simulated harvest used in the article, about 42% of the timber harvested ended up in forms such as structural components of buildings. To make up for this loss of carbon into the atmosphere, the new forest would have to grow for 250 years.

Another factor, not considered in this study, is the fossil fuel required to convert a tree into a useable wood. In cutting, transporting and milling timber, more CO<sub>2</sub> is added to the atmosphere - a fact that is conveniently overlooked by those who see forestry as our saviour from the greenhouse effect.

The forest used in this study is found in the Pacific Northwest of the United States. It seems probable that in mature rainforest, the percentage of carbon that is lost on the way to useable timber would be much greater than the 58% figure here.

The study concludes: "Although reintroducing forests to deforested regions will increase carbon storage in the biota, conversion of old growth forests to younger forests under current harvesting and use conditions has added and will continue to add carbon to the atmosphere."

Source: "Effects on Carbon Storage of Conversion of Old-Growth Forests to Young Forests." by Harmon, Ferrel and Franklin. *Science*, Vol. 247 (9 Feb 1990). See also WRR 14 "Rainforests, The Greenhouse Myth, and the Reafforestation Fantasy" by George Marshall.

## Prince Charles Calls for Tropical-Timber Boycott.

In an impassioned plea this February, Prince Charles called on the world's developed nations to boycott tropical hardwoods and urged consumers to act on their own. He also attacked the International Tropical Timber Organization and the United-Nations-backed Tropical Forest Action Plan.

"Deforestation has actually increased massively during the time these two institutions have been at work," he said. The World Rainforest Movement has demanded a moratorium on the U.N. plan and has long accused the ITTO of promoting the tropical-timber industry. Further quotes from his speech:

"Even now, as the Penan in Sarawak are harassed and even imprisoned for defending their own tribal lands, and the Yanomamof of Brazil are driven into extinction by measles, venereal disease or mercury poisoning following the illegal invasion of their lands by gold prospectors - even now, that dreadful pattern of collective genocide continues..."

"These people are accomplished environmental scientists, and for us to call them 'primitive' is both perverse and patronising..."

"I fear that we will fail this particular challenge if we are not prepared to accept that sustainable development demands not just a range of different management techniques and funding mechanisms, but a different attitude towards the Earth and a less arrogant, man-centred philosophy."





# World Roundup

## (cont'd)

### Vanuatu

"A Taiwanese company, Tsiensou Enterprise Co., is about to begin logging timber on the island of Maleluka. Heavy equipment and about 50 workers Taiwan were expected to arrive in late April with about 200 people to be employed locally. The company has signed a 40-year agreement to log and process timber in the country." (Source: Pacific Islands Monthly)

In October 1989, Clarence Marae, Vanuatu's trade and industry secretary was fined \$US 8,300 on charges of bribery. He admitted receiving \$US 14,000 from a Taiwanese logging company which had applied for a licence to log rainforest on Maleluka. The Vanuatu government has rigid controls on logging; licences are restricted to protect the future of the small local processing industry. The island of Maleluka has the last extensive tract of rainforest in Vanuatu.

Source: Traffic Bulletin 11:32 Pacific Islands Monthly, Nov. '89 Jenks J.A. The Forests of Vanuatu. Forest News 11(3):10-11 in Tigerpaper XV(3)

### Sarawak:

## Bakun Dam Proposal to be Revived?

The proposed Bakun Hydro-electric project is the first of a series of large dams planned for the Upper Rajang River Basin. These are: Bakun (2,400 MW planned to be commissioned in 1996) Murum (900 MW in the year 2000) Pelagus (900 MW) and Baleh (950 MW). Bakun was chosen to be the first because it was considered to be relatively more accessible and necessary to act as a sediment trap for the future Pelagus Dam. The Bakun Dam is massive even by international standards: 2,400 MW generating capacity (the required generating capacity for peninsular Malaysia was only 2,540 MW in 1985, Sarawak 180 MW and Sabah 170 MW) with a catchment area of 14,750 sq km. and a reservoir covering an area of 695 sq km. (bigger than Singapore Island). assuming no interest charges and no increase in costs, the cost of the dam will be \$7,815 million in 1985 prices. An integral part of the project will be two 650 km submarine High Voltage Direct Current cables to Peninsular Malaysia. The Project will also displace about 4,300 people living in the area.

The Malaysian Government has kept the feasibility study report confidential and so information on the project is limited. The project was shelved during hard economic times in the 1980's but is currently being considered again.

The following is an excerpt from a paper on the dam proposal by Gurmit Singh, delivered in 1986 when the project was being considered for the first time: "Large power projects like the Bakun Dam take us further

down the path to centralised development where we meet our energy requirements through fewer and more concentrated sources. Aside from the security question of being more susceptible to sabotage, it is more suited to a centralised type of society where decision-making and control of resources are centralised in only a few hands. Are we willing or have we all agreed that that form of society is more meaningful for us? From the environmental viewpoint, centralisation is problematic. It concentrates a lot of problems eg. pollution, and concentrates negative environmental impacts, possibly to the point of no return."

## Tropical Forest Peoples Project: Developing a Forest Peoples Charter.

A new initiative by the World Rainforest Movement, follows on from work done over the last three years. It aims to chart the response of a people's response to the tropical forest crisis, based on securing the rights of those who live in and from the forests to control their lands and destinies.

The project has three basic aims:

1. To help create an effective global network of forest peoples. All too often, forest people are fighting the battle to save their land alone, often unaware that their problems are shared by many other peoples around the world. There is an urgent need for these people to link up and share their experiences.

2. To help prepare a charter of forest people's demands. The main solutions to the problem of tropical deforestation evolved in the west such as the Tropical Forestry Action Plan have developed without consultation with forest peoples and little concern for their rights. As a result these solutions will only continue the "top down" processes of development that are dispossessing forest peoples and destroying their forests. This project addresses the urgent need for forest peoples to make their own views and plans more widely known and to intervene in policy making at national, regional and international levels. It is proposed that the charter be presented at the United Nations 1992 conference on environment and development.

3. To demonstrate the existence of real and practical examples of community based, sustainable forest management projects. Such models are urgently needed to halt deforestation and the destruction of forest peoples' livelihoods and provide for the growing demands of Third World economies. There is an urgent need to pull together all the information and documentation on real and working examples of such community based sustainable forest management projects (and to look at examples where this approach has failed.)

For further information contact: Marcus Colchester, World Rainforest, 8 Chapel Row, Chadlington OX7 3NA, England



# BAN JAPAN CAMPAIGN



In October 1988 the international 'Ban Japan from the Tropical rainforest' campaign was launched. The campaign directs itself to the rapid destruction of the remaining rainforests in South East Asia and in other parts of the world due to commercial logging by big Japanese trading houses. The present rate of deforestation in South East Asia has increased to a dramatic 20,000 square km per year, 80 m per second! Japan is the greatest logger overseas and holds the largest share in the tropical hardwoods trade. For this reason, Thailand, the Philippines and some of the Indonesian islands have already been stripped of their natural forest. Japanese firms are now focussing their logging activities to Sarwak, Sabah and Papua New Guinea.

In September last year the second international action day focussed on the destructive logging and hardwood trading activities of Mitsubishi and other Japanese firms (e.g. Marubeni, C-Ittoh). Sixteen countries participated. Front page news and serious attention was paid by TV and other media to this tragedy almost everywhere.

On the 18th of April this year another day of actions was held. Some of the world wide actions were:

- U.S.: full page advertisement in the New York times and demonstration to the Japanese embassy;
- Netherlands: symbolic blockade in front of the Japanese embassy, big 'writing action';
- Switzerland: spectacular action with a huge tree trunk on a Mitsubishi car, and distribution of leaflets under window-wipers of Mitsubishi cars;
- Belgium: symbolic blockade and distribution of brochures and posters;
- Germany: they will spread out an enormous banner on a large square;
- Australia: a demonstration, distribution of a film on Mitsubishi action in September last year on a large scale.

Paul Wolvekamp, FOE-The Netherlands Damrak 26, 1012 LJ Amsterdam, tel. 31.20.221366, fax: 31.20.275287

## Campaign Upsets Mitsubishi:

A representative of the newly formed environment department of the Mitsubishi Corporation talked to NGO representatives at the recent ITTO meeting in Bali. He asked the environment movement to call off its campaign against Mitsubishi and talk to them instead. He said that Mitsubishi imported only 2% of the rainforest logs entering Japan and that the campaign was unfair. It was pointed out to him that Mitsubishi was the largest buyer of Indonesian plywood.

It is gratifying to see that the campaign against Mitsubishi is having some impact. It is hard to see their new environment department being anything more than a public relations exercise.

# GODZILLA INVADES SAN FRANCISCO

## Mitsubishi Headquarters Targetted For Attack By Japanese Monster Environmentalist

SAN FRANCISCO (April 18, 1990) Godzilla, Japan's leading environmentalist, has agreed to lead a demonstration against Japanese environmental practices. At 10:00 am, at 50 California St., San Francisco, at the office of Mitsubishi Corporation, Godzilla will join the Rainforest Action Network and the International Rivers Network to protest Mitsubishi's logging in the tropical rainforest of Sarawak, Borneo, as well as Japan's foreign lending for destructive dam projects in developing countries.

"Since my victorious battle with the Smog Monster, I have dedicated my life to fighting the destroyers of the Earth", roared the giant reptile. Japan is the leading importer of tropical rainforest timbers, and the leading funder of disastrous water development projects in the Third World.

**TROPICAL TIMBER** Mitsubishi Corp. and other Japanese corporations are involved in 24 hour logging operations with the use of flood lights. Despite worldwide protest, the rapid logging of Borneo's tropical rainforest is accelerating. Japan is the leading importer of tropical timber from Southeast Asia. "People all over the world are denouncing the environmental atrocities committed by the Japanese logging corporations such as Mitsubishi and Sumitomo. The logging in Borneo must stop if the indigenous people are to survive, says Randy Hayes, Director of the Rainforest Action Network."

**OVERSEAS DEVELOPMENT** In the last two years, Japanese overseas development aid has doubled, bringing its total aid and loan financing package to nearly \$22 billion per year. Though the single largest development financier in the world, Japan has no established environmental assessment policies, either domestically, or internationally. A huge amount of those overseas funds are paying for destructive water development projects.

"Japan's monstrous destructive capacity requires monstrous solutions", said Juliette Majot of the International Rivers Network. Godzilla, the Rainforest Action Network and the International Rivers Network actively support the work of Japanese environmentalists. Today they are joining thousands of other protesters in the US and worldwide, to demand that both Japanese corporations and Japanese development aid stop destructive environmental practices.

For more information contact: Pamela Wellner, Rainforest Action Network, (415) 398-4404 or Juliette Majot, International Rivers Network, (415) 986-4694.





# A SUMMARY OF THE COMMISSION OF INQUIRY INTO ASPECTS OF THE TIMBER INDUSTRY IN PAPUA NEW GUINEA.

by George Marshall

The "Commission of Inquiry into Aspects of the [Papua New Guinea] Timber Industry" is a key document for the rainforest movement for the way that it bares the bones of the PNG timber industry. No other tropical country has commissioned a report that has been so honest or outspoken. Barnett's conclusions are damning. He describes some of the companies as "roaming the country with the self-assurance of robber barons" fooling land owners and bribing politicians. He describes the timber industry as "out of control" and concludes "there can be no doubt that the timber industry, by its very nature, is conducive to acts of a criminal nature".

He reveals the virtual total lack of a government forestry policy, "lurching from one concession to another...with no clear sense of purpose". The Department of Forests is obscured by a "fog of inertia" and of "meandering intellectual neglect". The post independence organisation of the Department is "as if a mad butcher attacked the carcass of the National Forestry Service with his chopper".

## THE COMPANIES

Barnett found tax fraud on a vast scale. He says; "All trails lead to transfer pricing". Transfer pricing is a mechanism where by timber is sold below market price (and often below cost price) and the real profits are made overseas. In 1986 and 1987 he estimates that PNG lost up to US\$27.5 million in foreign currency through transfer pricing.

In 1986, one company, Shin Ashigawa, declared a loss of nearly US\$90,000. On investigation it had made a profit of US\$999,000. The difference was held by its Japanese parent company. Since 1975 only 2 timber companies have ever declared a profit.

Many of the logging companies were subsidiaries of foreign marketing and processing companies, in particular the Japanese Sogo Shosha; a perfect set up for transfer pricing. For example, United Timbers, is financed entirely by, and supplies logs exclusively to, Mitsubishi Corporation. In under 2 years it had transfer priced US\$1.5 million to Mitsubishi, and misdeclared logs to steal another US\$300,000 in 1986 alone.

Companies without any logging experience have been given concessions. Straits Engineering Co., a marine engineering company, was given a 484,000 ha. concession when over a third of the landowners had never been consulted. The landowners received royalties of US 50 cents per cubic metre, which they could only spend in the company shop.

## LANDOWNERS

In theory the traditional landowners in PNG have control over 373 their ancestral lands, unlike Malaysia, Philippines and Indonesia. In practice, the landowners were deceived, systematically cheated, divided amongst themselves, and played off against each other. Landowner companies were set up and directed by the companies, and the local "bigmen" were bought off. Barnett says that "the share [of profits] being received by landowners is in fact ridiculously low."

## ENVIRONMENT

Barnett was not required to discuss the ecological effects. He regards forests in the report as a "resource" and calls for "sustainable logging methods" to be applied. However, he did commission a number of environmental studies, which reveal the usual litany of wanton destruction; "local extinctions", soil erosion, reef damage from siltation, pollution of drinking water, totally blocked streams, nutrient loss, weed infestation.....

Barnett said of one concession in New Ireland: "My impression of logged over areas from the air was that it appeared like a dog with mange." One of the worst operations was the Vanimo concession operated by the West Australian firm of Bunnings. He referred to "highly destructive logging practices", "mass destruction" and to one part of the operation as "a disaster area."

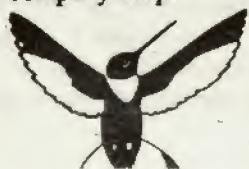
No company investigated by the Commission was satisfying its permit conditions; social, financial, or environmental. 75% of logging companies currently operating have broken the Environmental Planning Act by not submitting an Environmental Impact Assessment.

## CORRUPTION

Corruption is rife. Barnett describes it as "a major social sickness". Santa Investments was found to be bribing local land owners, 4 members of parliament, forestry staff, Minister of Forests Ted Diro, who received US\$127,000 and his successor, Paul Torato. It gave the Premier of New Ireland and the Provincial Secretary a vast array of donations, cars, and boats.

Ted Diro certainly rates as the biggest timber crook. The Commission found that he'd received US\$127,500 from the head of the Indonesian military. On becoming Minister of Forests he assisted many of his cronies get concessions. The best concession he gave to Angus Trading, a company in which he had a 30% shareholding. Angus turned out to be a vast transfer pricing racket from which Diro would have made over US\$5 million. There were no conditions enforced, and the result was "reckless destruction of [the] forests".

The Inquiry was clearly regarded as an embarrassment to the government and a threat to some of the most powerful people in the country. Justice Barnett is sure that this is why he was stabbed within an inch of his





life outside his home. Extensions were given to the Commission on a week by week basis, and, when the Report was released after 2 years in June 1990, it was immediately suppressed. Most of it has never been printed, and there is 3m3 no copy available to the people of PNG.

Now, nearly a year since the Final Report, there have been NO prosecutions. Ted Diro has been promoted to Deputy Prime Minister, Santa continue to operate. Bunnings have left, but only through choice. The Finance Minister of Central Province said in January 1990 "Most of the companies [that fled the country during the Inquiry] have returned and have gone right back to their dirty activities, that are destroying the land, environment, and the local people."

## WHAT WE ARE DOING

*We have produced a 34 page "Summary" of the Inquiry. It is available from RIC for \$5.00. It is also on Pegasus on the new conference reg.newguinea, which is internationally accessible. We are now preparing this Summary for a large print run, translation, and distribution to the traditional landowners in PNG.*

# UPDATE OF THE NEW GUINEA ISLANDS CAMPAIGN

## SUMMARY OF THE COMMISSION OF INQUIRY

As described above, we have produced a Summary of the Commission of Inquiry into Aspects of the [Papua New Guinea] Timber Industry. We are currently editing it and translating it into tok pisin and motu, and discussing production and distribution with PNG NGO's. Hopefully we should be dumping them in thousands.

## TROPICAL FOREST ACTION PLAN FOR PNG.

As discussed below, George Marshall attended the PNG TFAP donors meeting in PNG and presented a detailed critique arguing for a ban on all export logging. We are watching for new developments, in particular the license moratorium, which is due to start in July 1990.

## TASMANIA SPEAKING TOUR

George Marshall had an intensive speaking tour in Tasmania at the invitation of the Asia Pacific Action Group, raising awareness of the New Guinea issues, and interest in the APAG group.

## MEETING WITH HASYRUL HARAHAP

Yos Suprpto and George Marshall were amongst 6 environmentalists who met Harahap, the Indonesian Minister of Forests in Sydney. The meeting was not productive. He claimed that ALL logging in Indonesia is sustainable, so there was no much grounds for discussion. We told him that the treatment of tribal people was a disgrace, and that we would keep fighting until Australia bans imports of Indonesian timber. We got to listen to him bullshit ting on about rain-forests being the "lungs of the earth", and he got a good set of full face photo's for our files.

## CAMPAIGNS

There will be campaigns directed against: -ANZ Bank over their logging operation in Madang Province, PNG. -Marubeni Corporation's woodchipping operation in Bintuni Bay, the largest area of mangroves in South East Asia that has not yet been chipped or cleared. 40,000 ha. of the fully gazetted Bintuni Bay Strict Nature Reserve, was de-gazetted by the head of the Department of Forests to increase the concession. The information is being prepared now, and we hope to run a sticker victimisation blitz. More details in WRR 17

## NEWS

-The world's largest plywood factory will be built in Sorong, Irian Jaya. The Department of Forests says that transmigrant workers will be preferred. -according to Norman Myers, deforestation in Indonesia is now running at 12,000 km<sup>2</sup>/yr (3,280ha. a day !) This is the second largest rate in the world after Brazil, and is 2.5 times that of Malaysia. -the Indonesia TFAP is now well underway. We still know nothing about this..any information please. -Bas Suebu, the governor of Irian Jaya, admitted in July 1989, that 20 years of "development" had failed to improve the lives of the indigenous people. -the Department of Forests in Irian Jaya estimates that 1,322,000 ha. of land is "critical". -Bunnings Brothers has sold Vanimo Forest Products, (see WRR 14) in West Sepik to a Malaysian firm, WTK Realty. Of course, the customary landowners were never consulted. WTK's general manager has no office in Vanimo, and was operating from the Islander Hotel where he was thrown out for non payment of bills. One of WTK's first acts was to fire most of the PNG national staff and replace them with Malaysians. WTK's owner, Mr. Hi, is a well known timber crook, oft mentioned in the Inquiry for transfer pricing and illegal logging. Vanimo is also the constituency of the Minister of Forests Karl Stack.





# THE PAPUA NEW GUINEA TROPICAL FOREST ACTION PLAN AND MORATORIUM - A PERSONAL REPORT.

George Marshall

The TFAP has been heavily criticised, most recently in "TFAP; What Progress?" (Lohmann and Colchester 1990) which calls for a withdrawal of all funding. The PNG TFAP was meant to be a clean sheet. The king bee, Jim Douglas, said "it is a perfect opportunity to come up with new ideas and policies the like of which we should see a lot more of from the bank in the future" (The Bulletin 29.8.89). If it is, then God help us.

To begin with, as usual it was impossible to get a copy of the PNG TFAP Report, and the NGO's, whose consultation was so lauded, had to scrape up leaked photocopies. The Report itself was incompetent in the extreme.

-Rural customary landowners make up over 90% of the population and logging takes place on their lands. So, of course, the TFAP team never found the time to talk any of them. In the report they received 2 pages which noted that they are a problem for development and beyond the scope of the Report.

-The TFAP proposed major new forestry legislation. It totally ignored the vast level of abuse of existing laws, and made no recommendations of prosecuting those mentioned by the Barnett Commission.

-As usual the TFAP Report talked of sustained yield as the "guiding principle of management". It could equally well have been talking of the Easter Bunny. Sustainable forestry, it noted, could "range...from selective logging...to clearfelling and replanting" - which leaves the options fairly open. The sustainable harvest for PNG was guessed from data that was up to 50 years old or not even relevant to PNG at all. The TFAP then proposed that the donor countries should compensate 33 PNG for the US\$70 million it would lose by reducing cut to a "sustainable yield" and that this would go towards creating World Heritage Areas.

The donors meeting was held in Port Moresby from the 3rd to the 5th March 1990. The problems with the TAFP Report were immediately apparent. Due to the totally inaccurate information, the reduced, "sustainable", level turned out to be 2.2 million m<sup>3</sup>/yr. higher than the present harvest!

The TFAP Report had given NO consideration at all as to how to spend the money for the World Heritage Areas. Conservation areas would only be created if the landowners agreed, and there would have to be some kind of benefit for them, but they don't enter into the World Bank scheme of things.

So the donors were confused. Karl Stack, the Minister of Forests, who was chairing the meetings, engineered a discussion on logging moratoria and, out of the bag, announced a 2 year moratorium on the issue of new licences starting in July 1990. "Wow", went the conference, "this is a real step forward." Well, in some ways it is, but it should be remembered that Stack is a very dodgy character. He stands to lose much of his ministerial power in a restructuring of forestry in July 1990. So, the announcement of a moratorium will greatly increase his power to issue licences in the interim. To begin with he was saying that he had to issue 4 licen-

ses before the moratorium. Within 2 hours, he was announcing 6 at a press conference. He has only just been stopped from trying to issue another 4 on top of these. Last time there was a license moratorium in 4 provinces, Stack still went ahead and issued 4 new concessions in those provinces. Stack has already been under investigation by the fraud squad and has been accused of receiving a bribe of US\$500,000. He's not a man to be trusted.

So, at the end of the meeting, Australia had pledged US\$2.4 million towards the PNG TFAP, no one else had pledged anything other than hot air. Some of the projects looked very promising, such as the Landowner Awareness project which will talk directly to landowners about what they want, and, I hope, steer them away from forestry. I don't know how far the World Heritage Areas will get. The people want development, not National Parks, and will not comply unless their aspirations are met. Unless very large sums of money become available, with full commitment from the government and people, I can't see it working too well.

I attended the conference to push for a ban on all logging, and for the position in my "Critique of the PNG TFAP" which had been endorsed by WRM, RAN, RIC, APAG, UKFSP, GECG, GALG, and a lot of other initials.

I learned 2 things from this conference. Firstly I learned that one has to say exactly what one thinks. I hated the whole game of it, the way that everything had to be padded with phoney deference, the way that every NGO position had to be watered down to make it palatable. The first NGO statement asked for deferral of approval of new licences until clan registration has been enacted. I was shot down when I said that the very least that we should push for is the unconditional moratorium on new licenses. Then, only when Stack had taken the initiative, the NGO's came behind this.

Secondly I learned that the deference to NGO opinion is pure illusion; there is no democracy, and the only power that we have is ideas. If we don't hammer at the truth...that there is no sustainable commercial logging, that the timber industry destroys whole nations, the people, cultures, and lifeforms...then we are playing the same game as the timber industry and playing into their hands.

I understand very well the pragmatic argument for going a little bit at a time, so as not to jeopardise small gains by rash demands. I also understand that the earth is dying, that we can only be saved by a total revolution in consciousness and economic structures, and that individuals can be bought. The crudest way to buy people is with money. The best way is to make them feel important, make them use your language, listen to them, tell them that you'll get upset and not talk to them if they say the wrong things, and then do exactly what you were going to do anyway.

**WE NEED REVOLUTION NOT REFORM !**

"The World Bank Tropical Forest Action Plan for Papua New Guinea: A Critique" (44pp.) is available from RIC for \$7.50, or can be found on reg.newguinea



# The Amazon

## Colombia: Tribes Get Half of Amazon

In February, asserting that Indians are the best guardians of the rainforest, the Colombian government recognized native land rights to half the Colombian Amazon. Encompassing some of the Amazon's most pristine forest, the new reserve, roughly the size of Washington, is home to some 55,000 Indians, and brings the legally recognized Indian land in the Colombian Amazon to 69,000 square miles. The decrees granting the reserve, which are based on an old Spanish colonial law that says the state has no right to lands it has never conquered, acknowledge Indian land rights more extensively than any other Amazonian country.

By law the reserves now belong to the Indian communities in perpetuity and cannot be sold.

The reasons for the government's action are complex, but they revolve around two main factors. The first is legal: the lands "handed back" already belong to the Indians. The second concerns the preservation of the rainforest. The most effective way to protect the nation's forests is to hand it back to the people who know how to use it without disrupting the ecosystem irretrievably.

The Indians view nature and the whole of creation as an intricate network of giving and receiving. They believe that the forms they see in the forest are the outward manifestation of what anthropologists have translated as "essence" or "energy." According to Indians the amount of "essence" is limited so it has to be recycled among the different species, each having its right quota. If anyone consumes too much of a certain plant or animal, their essence becomes visible to the guardians of the plants or animals, who hunt them down.

An individual's whole life is based on this system of giving and receiving from the forest. So too the local economy, both within the local community and with neighbouring communities, relies heavily on the principle of exchange among human beings and with the rest of nature. The traditional economy of the Indians is almost the exact opposite of a market economy, in which a person's status increases with their wealth

and possessions. In the Indian community, a person who accumulates is evidently one who lacks social relations with others and has no one with whom to share.

In a bold and farsighted manner, the Colombian government is encouraging the indigenous communities of the Amazon to return to their traditions and cultures and has given them the space and authority to do so. Moreover, it expects that this will lead to the protection of the rainforest. At least in the Amazon, Colombia appears to have got its values straight - and the word is spreading. Bolivia is now seeking advice from Colombian lawyers on how to create reserves for the Indians of its Amazon region. Who else will follow suit?

Source: New Scientist 16-12-89



## What You Can Do:

Write a letter to the new President of Brazil (elected since the above decision was made) congratulating him on his election and Colombia's decision to give the Indians their land. Urge him to resist any attempts which may be made to try and make him compromise the government's stand. Address:

Dr. Cesar Gavira  
President of Colombia  
Palacio de Norino  
Bagota D.E.  
Colombia  
South America

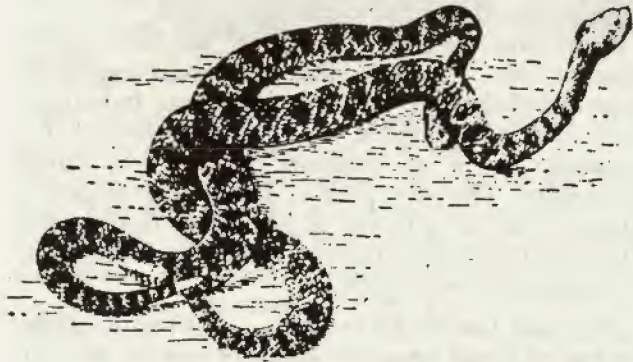




# Amazon (cont'd)

## Brazil's New Environment Secretary Vows to Fight Acre Road

To the surprise of rainforest activists the world over, newly elected Brazilian President Fernando Collor de Mello has appointed renowned environmentalist Dr. Jose Lutzenberger to the post of Secretary of the Environment. Lutzenberger, who over the last twenty years has led the fight to save the Amazon and to protect Indian lands, has vowed to continue his work without compromise, and, in particular, to block construction of the last section of the Acre Road, which would give the Japanese timber industry increased access to the Amazon through Peruvian ports on the Pacific.



"The only people interested in that road are the Japanese wood industry," Lutzenberger said recently. "It would be disastrous for the Amazon. The private talks I had with Mr. Collor lead me to think that the road is not going forward." The unexpected appointment is widely viewed as an indication that the conservative Collor is committed to repairing Brazil's badly damaged international image on environmental matters. Lutzenberger, whom the Swedish Parliament voted a "Right Livelihood" award in 1988 (the awards are considered an alternative Nobel prize), has long been a vociferous critic of official Brazilian development policy in the Amazon. An agronomist by training, in 1971 he helped found one of southern Brazil's most militant ecological organizations. In 1984 he testified before the U.S. Congress against a World Bank loan for development of the western Amazon, and the loan was eventually denied. Lutzenberger's position is expected to have real teeth. Armed with a recent \$117 million World Bank loan for environmental education, research, and protection, Lutzenberger will be Brazil's top environmental official, with authority over environmental units in each of Brazil's twelve government ministries. "Priority number one is Amazonia," Lutzenberger said on the day of his ap-

pointment. "We must reverse the devastation there." Among other important steps, he has vowed to end tax subsidies for ranching and to promote debt-for-nature swaps in Amazonia.



## What You Can Do

For Dr. Jose Lutzenberger to make Brazilian President Collor follow through on his commitment to protect the Amazon, he needs our support right now. Lutzenberger will be facing tremendously powerful, entrenched interests: loggers, miners, cattle ranchers, construction companies. He was named in part because of the international respect he commands; our 3m3 strong support will strengthen his position. Please send letters and telexes to President Collor along the following lines:

Dear Mr. President:

We strongly support your appointment of Dr. Jose Lutzenberger as Secretary of the Environment. Dr. Lutzenberger is a committed and capable environmentalist of international stature. Your selection of him suggests a willingness to find new solutions for the very difficult environmental problems that your country faces. We congratulate you on this courageous step.

Send telexes to number 613117. Send letters to: Exmo. Sr., Presidente da Republica do Brazil, Fernando Collor de Mello, Palacio do Planalto, 70.150 Brasilia D.F., Brasil. Postage for a 1-page (1-ounce) letter is 90 cents.

(Environmental Defense Fund

Sierra Club)

## BRAZIL'S UNION OF INDIGENOUS NATIONS IS AWARDED 1990 ONASSIS PRIZE

Ailton Krenak: The Indians as Allies for the Future  
"We have lived in this place for a long time, a very long time, since the time when the world did not yet have this shape. We learned with the ancients that we are a tiny part of this immense universe, fellow travellers with all the animals, the plants and the waters. We are all a part of the whole, we cannot neglect or destroy our home. And now we want to talk





# Amazon...

to those who cannot yet manage to see the world in this way, to say to them that together we have to take care of the boat in which we are all sailing"

The 1990 Onassis Prize for Man and Society --ARIS-TOTELIS-- has been jointly awarded to the Union of Indigenous Nations (UNI) and its national coordinator Ailton Krenak. Announcing the award, one of four Onassis Prizes, the president of the Onassis Foundation said: "The Onassis Prizes honour persons and organizations whose contributions in all sectors of contemporary life are characterized by dedication to human values as conceived in Greek philosophy and culture". In a letter to Ailton Krenak telling him of the award, the Foundation explained:

**"You, and the Union of Indian Nations which you founded, are being honoured for your extraordinary work in protecting the indigenous Indian peoples of the Amazon region of Brazil and the rain forests in which they live".**



In a letter accepting the prize Ailton Krenak writes: "I consider this award to be recognition and support that will help in carrying on the work I have been engaged in over recent years, together with various citizens groups in Brazil, in defending indigenous peoples' rights to their lands and to a stable environment for future generations. The prize money will constitute an important contribution to the programme of recuperation of degraded forest areas in indian lands, and of stimulating the increase in these same areas of wild animal populations threatened with extinction, being carried out by the Indigenous Research Centre" In Sao Paulo today Ailton Krenak said: "I hope that Brazil will now pay a little more attention to the work we have been doing, and that we do not see a repeat of what happened last year when the UN awarded a Global 500 prize for the environment to Yanomami indian Davi Kopenawa. Despite this award the rights of the Yanomami people continue not to be respected or recognized and the Yanomami are currently threatened with genocide, to the international shame of Brazil". Ailton Krenak has announced that he will ask Davi Yanomami to accompany him to the award ceremony in Athens on April 5th.

## Sustainability

COMMENT: FROM  
UNCLE SCROOGE'S MONEY BIN

BUT.... the six zillion megadollar question remains - Is there any real agreement over the term "sustainable" when applied to commercial logging, or indeed, is there any such animal as sustainable logging?

So far as I am aware there has never been a successful example of "sustainable" logging of primary rainforest (see the report mentioning Aila Keito's report on Sustainability in the Qld. Forestry Commission in this edition of WRR.) In fact I would like to contend that the notion of "sustainable" logging in tropical forest is, at this stage, little more than a catchcry invented by the timber industry to justify its continued desecration of the earth's forest, particularly in the Third World. As Professor Len Webb wrote in an article in World Rainforest Report 13,

"I ...consider that the preservation of the tropical rainforest is in principle non-negotiable."

Until human interaction with the rainforest environs are based on a more sophisticated understanding than that of the profit motive, then, in my opinion, we should heed Professor Webb's advice. If that means banning logging altogether in the rainforests, so be it.

Historically, the term "sustainable" has been used to obscure the fact that commercial logging has been overwhelmingly detrimental to forests. Industry experts have often invoked the dubious notion of "sustainability" as an argument in favour of further desecration. This view point is a form of ecological illiteracy which sees forests as little more than a whole bunch of trees, rather than as a multitude of complex interconnected living systems.

Professor Len Webb writes: *Given the global decline of forests for a wide variety of reasons, and the emergence of wide national movements against tropical deforestation, these "negligible" examples of sustained yield are as ludicrous as they are misleading.*" (from : Prof. L.J. Webb's article in WRR 13, Statment to Rebut Sustained Yield Arguments by Forestry in Nth. Qld. Tropical Rainforests).

It is as well to be aware that the tactics of the logging industry including "sympathetic" corporations, have been to generate confusion in the ranks of our movement and the public-at-large by paying lip service to environmental awareness and by tokenistic displays of concern where it does not interfere with profit.

In fact big business is rushing to exploit the "green" market created by public awareness of environmental issues, in the most superficially commercial manner (see article "Dangers and Advantages of Going Green", in Business Review Weekly, April 1990).

My reasons for printing sections of this article are to draw attention to the controversy surrounding the notion of "sustainability" and the ways in which this term has been used to justify the destruction of the earth's forests - we would appreciate any feedback from our readers on this issue.

- Uncle Scrooge



# Amazon (cont'd)

## Colombia: Tribes Get Half of Amazon

In February, asserting that Indians are the best guardians of the rainforest, the Colombian government recognized native land rights to half the Colombian Amazon. Encompassing some of the Amazon's most pristine forest, the new reserve, roughly the size of Washington, is home to some 55,000 Indians, and brings the legally recognized Indian land in the Colombian Amazon to 69,000 square miles. The decrees granting the reserve, which are based on an old Spanish colonial law that says the state has no right to lands it has never conquered, acknowledge Indian land rights more extensively than any other Amazonian country.

By law the reserves now belong to the Indian communities in perpetuity and cannot be sold.

The reasons for the government's action are complex, but they revolve around two main factors. The first is legal: the lands "handed back" already belong to the Indians. The second concerns the preservation of the rainforest. The most effective way to protect the nation's forests is to hand it back to the people who know how to use it without disrupting the ecosystem irretrievably.

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and possessions. In the Indian community, a person who accumulates is evidently one who lacks social relations with others and has no one with whom to share.

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President of Colombia  
Palacio de Norino  
Bagota D.E.  
Colombia  
South America





# YANOMAMI

The devastation of the Yanomami people, their land and their culture is continuing. An estimated 40,000 gold miners have invaded their territory in the remote western Amazon near the Venezuelan border.

## YANOMAMI UPDATE 29th MARCH 1990

Brazil's newly installed President Fernando Collor de Mello guaranteed headlines both locally and abroad last weekend by choosing the lands of the Yanomami for his first official visit since taking office and by ordering Federal Police chief Romeu Tuma to dynamite the landing-strips constructed illegally in the area by invading garimpeiros (gold-prospectors). However, though some aspects of the presidential visit suggest that Collor may act on the question with more coherence and integrity than his predecessor Jose Sarney, other factors inspire reservations.

In the first place, it should be noted that Collor's priority on the visit was not his encounter with the Yanomami of Surucucus but an inspection of the local base of the much-criticised militarisation project known as "Calha Norte". The fact that the president wore an army uniform to the Yanomami area can be interpreted as a clear signal that the region's destiny remains in the hands of the military, who have a history of collaboration with the invaders and have publicly advocated allowing garimpeiros to remain in the area.

### IRRECONCILABLE OPPOSITES

At a meeting in Brasilia before the presidential visit, Collor decided that Calha Norte should continue, and even be considered a priority, as long as its execution gave "maximum emphasis to environmental preservation". What this means in practice is not clear, since the existing conception and declared objectives of Calha Norte are completely incompatible with environmental preservation and the welfare of the region's indigenous communities.

The emphasis on reconciling the practically irreconcilable was also present in the speech Collor delivered to an audience consisting mainly of garimpeiros shortly after arrival in Roraima (the state which contains the Yanomami lands). The President appealed for recognition of the Yanomami's rights and referred to "our indigenous brothers", while at the same time defending the "right to work" of the garimpeiros and claiming to recognize their illegal activity as an "economic necessity for Roraima". Throughout the speech, Collor insisted that his aim was to "reconcile development and environmental preservation".

## YANOMAMI UPDATE 31st MAY 1990

This is the latest update on the situation of the Yanomami Indians produced by the CCPYCEDI

Sao Paulo, 31 May 1990 After 75 days of the government of President Fernando Collor de Mello no solution is in sight for the crisis which has struck the Yanomami since the invasion of their lands by thousands of gold-seekers known as garimpeiros - despite all the Presidential promises and posturing. In outline, the current situation is the following: 1. The

invasion of the Yanomami lands continues. Large numbers of garimpeiros (at least 8,000) remain in the heart of traditional Yanomami territory having been moved by the "garimpeiro businessmen" and the Federal Police to the so-called "garimpeiros reserves" which were illegally decreed at the end of the Sarney government and where many were already operating. To date, the Collor government has ignored the reaffirmation (made on 21 April) of the Federal Court injunction ordering that the operation to remove the invaders go ahead and the "garimpeiro reserve" decrees be disregarded. Other smaller groups (totalling some 3,000) were never even removed from Paapiu and Surucucus, the areas covered by the evacuation operation. Yet more have returned to those areas and, due to the fall in the market price of gold, are concentrating on the extraction of tin-bearing cassiterite. There has, therefore, been a re-invasion of areas of Yanomami territory which had previously been evacuated. 2. The government's plan for the dynamiting of the clandestine airstrips is making slow progress. Between 2nd and 15 May the first 14 strips were destroyed, before the first stage was brought to a halt with the arrival of the rains without having achieved its target of 30 strips dynamited. The garimpeiros have meanwhile moved quickly to open alternative paths overland which guarantee their access to the goldfields located in regions which have already been evacuated from bases in the "garimpeiro reserves" or other landing-strips which have not been destroyed. Though the government plan refers to the existence of some hundred airstrips inside Yanomami territory, it lists only as earmarked for destruction. Of the other strips known to exist, but not listed, at least 11 are clandestine and used exclusively by garimpeiros. The plan does not make it clear whether a further 21 strips belonging to the authorities will be watched and if they will be sufficient to allow the health care operations in the area to go ahead. Garimpeiro leaders such as Altino Machado have publicly mocked the government plan's chances of success instatements to the local press. 3. The health conditions of the Yanomami are still extremely serious. The emergency medical operations are continuing under conditions even more difficult than those faced at the end of the previous government. The minimum requirement for the operations to go ahead, especially adequate air transport, are lacking. There have been frequent cases of the use of the garimpeiros' aircraft, which bring in medical doctors and leave loaded with cassiterite. The malaria epidemic is spreading, causing more deaths in the Yanomami villages and giving rise to alarming situations such as that around the Jeremias airstrip where 80 sick Indians are gathered. Experts warn that the end of the rains will bring an even more devastating epidemic with the formation of mosquito-breeding pools in areas torn up by garimpeiros' mining equipment. The Federal Government has still not defined its position on the establishment of consistent measures to preserve the health of the Yanomami.



# Environmental Implications of the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade

John Revington

By far the most important agreement regulating international commerce is the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade (GATT).

Initially drafted in 1947 it is currently undergoing one of its periodic reviews in a complex series of negotiations called the Uruguay Round. They will conclude in December 1990 and to a large extent determine trends in world trade for decades to come. They are therefore of critical importance to the future of the world's rainforests, and indeed to the future of the world.

There is no opportunity for environmental groups to have a say in the discussions all those involved have a consuming interest in economic growth and trade deregulation. Freer trade will in general be good for rich economies, bad for Third World economies and bad for tropical rainforests.

## Reducing Export controls

The current talks are aimed at removing controls on international trades. As far as export controls go, their removal would ensure developed countries a continued supply of cheap natural resources from the third world. For third world countries it would mean they would have to export food stuffs, even if their own people did not have enough to eat. Those people would then place enormous demands on other resources just to survive. One of those resources would of course be tropical forests.

## Lifting Import Controls.

There is a similar push for controls of imports to be lifted. For many third world countries, this would mean low priced imports from Australia, the US and Europe being dumped on their local markets. This would devastate local food production by making it uncompetitive. Farmers would be forced off their land - probably to be replaced by large scaled procedures - and into marginal areas like tropical forest.

This scenario is more than mere speculation. In 1986/87, deliberate market manipulation by the USA lead to serious damage to Costa Rica's agricultural industry. Small-scale farmers were forced to surrender their land and clear small plots of rainforest in order to survive.

In the present GATT discussion large US hamburger chains are lobbying their Government to abolish US beef import quotas. If this happens, more rainforest in Central and South America will be cleared to supply beef to the US markets.

The lifting or reduction of import controls would also have severe environmental repercussions because import tariffs that used to offset pollution controls costs would also have to go.

One of the few "advantages" poorer countries have in a competing freer market is that they can lower costs by having lower standards of environmental control. (a study undertaken for the Brundland commission estimates that in 1980 developing nations would have had to pay over \$14 billion to meet US environmental standards).

The flow of hazardous wastes from rich to poor countries has flourished for similar reasons.

## Uniform Safety Standards.

To make trade between nations freer there is also a push for uniformity of environmental regulations. This is likely to mean standards are reduced to the lowest common denominator. A free trade agreement between Canada and the US has meant negotiations are in progress which are likely to lower standards in Canada in areas of environmental significance.

## Conclusion.

The gains made by conservation groups over the last decade could be dwarfed by the imminent changes to GATT.

Environmental protection was not an issue when GATT was initially drafted in 1947. No effort has been made since then to take account of this. Conservation and environmental concerns need to be explicitly set out in GATT, and the policy of liberalizing trade by deregulation must be changed. So long as it remains the priority efforts at environmental and resource conservation will be continue to be undermined. Like TFAP, ITTO and the World Bank, GATT works to take resource control out of the hands of local communities and Third World governments and place it in the hands of richer countries and multinationals.

This centralising of power in the hands of development orientated institutions can only have a detrimental effect on the environment. The main hope of salvation from this fate is that Third World countries can present a united front to block these moves.

## SOURCES:

"The Environmental implications of the GATT Negotiations" by Mark Ritchie.

"International Trade and the Environment" by Steven Shrybman.

Recolonization (GATT the Uruguay Round of the Third World) by Chakravarthi Raghavan. -Third World Network Malaysia.



## Netherlands Opposition to Tropical Timber Imports Sold Out By Minister

Public awareness of the problems caused by destruction of the earth's tropical rainforests has grown enormously over the past few years.

About 65% of Dutch Municipalities have decided to reduce the use of tropical timber for construction purposes and other end-uses. The State Building Service have entirely banned the use of tropical timber except for very specific exceptions.

In September last year more than 30 organizations (including labour unions, consumer organizations and religious organizations) signed a petition calling upon the government to adopt legislation aimed at reducing the importing of tropical timber from unsustainable sources. (see articles in this issue on Sustainability.)

This public awareness was reflected in the Dutch government's draft tropical rainforest policy document adopted in March of this year. Now conservation NGO's, the timber trade and other interest groups can comment on the document before a final policy will be defined later this year, although it is not expected that that the contents will be altered significantly.

The measures proposed consider other issues besides those of the tropical timber trade. Some selections from the draft policy follow:

1. The Dutch government consider it of great importance that timber exporting and importing countries jointly develop and implement a strategy which aims to end the exploitation of primary tropical forests and to guarantee the continuous supply of timber.

2. The government is looking at ways to draw up long term plans; The extent of timber supply that is marketed on the basis of such plans, is determined by the carrying capacity of the forest. In this way the potential supply and not the demand will determine the extent of tropical timber use.

3. A reduction of the consumption of tropical timber fits into this policy as long as the timber is not produced sustainably. Consequently and with a view to the "signal function" (what the hell does this mean? ed.) that follows from it, the government announces that they will promote, from 1995 onwards, that consumption be restricted to timber coming from countries/regions with a forest policy and management aimed at protection and sustainable reduction. From now on the use of tropical timber coming from more reasonable exploitations will have to be favoured as far as these can be identified. Application of this timber deserves a positive approach. 33 4. The Government will promote research on environmentally sound alternatives for present application instead of tropical timber.

5. The Government supports the central aim of the proposal of the European Parliament to regulate the trade in tropical timber in order to promote the implementation of national forest management plans in producer countries...Trade in tropical timber would

therefore be subject to import quota...Importing of tropical timber products from countries not wishing to be party to the programme for forest management and protection of the forests, will ultimately be banned. The Government will stimulate the proposal to be tested as regards to practicability.

In considering the implications of these extracts from the Dutch Government's Draft Policy on Tropical Timber Importation one can only conclude that Minister Bukman of the Netherlands, when addressing the ITTO-conference, completely understated the position which the Dutch Government has espoused to its own citizens, when he called for "...a more selective consumption of tropical timber." It would appear that both the citizens and Government of the Netherlands have been sold out by their appointed representative.

- Donald Duck



## QUOTES

"Indonesia is not just talking about deforestation; it is doing something about it."

- Indonesian government propaganda sheet.

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"Whenever conventional forestry places the well-being of forests above the well-being of people generally, it has an inherently anti-social tendency."

- Australian forester Alf Leslie.

\*\*\*

"First I thought I was fighting for the rubber tappers, then I thought I was fighting for the Amazon, then I realised I was fighting for humanity."

- Chico Mendes

\*\*\*

"Nothing will change in the Third World if changes do not take place in the industrialised countries"

- Jose Lutzenberger, Internationally acclaimed environmentalist and Brazil's new Environment Minister.

\*\*\*

"By today's utilisation standards, most of the trees in these humid tropical forests are, from an industrial standpoint, clearly weeds."

James A. Bethel, an international forestry consultant.

\*\*\*

"By elbowing out 'life' from being the central concern in organising human society, the dominant paradigm of knowledge has become a threat to life itself."

Vandana Shiva.

\*\*\*



# Excerpts from: Rainforests, Now or Never; Policy recommendations to the Australian Government to assist in the protection of the World's Rainforests.

This year in the tropics, an area of rainforest larger than the state of Victoria will be destroyed. The onslaught of loggers, cattle grazers, dam builders and displaced peasants seems unstoppable. It isn't. Last year an area of rainforest of a similar size was protected; most of it in Colombia where tribal communities and ecologists forced the government to give back customary lands and create reserves, protecting some 16 million hectares of rainforest.

*In the coming decade virtually all remaining rainforest areas in the world will be destroyed, seriously degraded or actively protected. What is in question is how much can be protected. And the answer to that may determine the fate of complex life on Earth. Rainforests are essential in the maintenance of global climate patterns and atmospheric composition. They provide for the ongoing functioning of ecosystems around the planet, as well as being home to 90 per cent of the species of life on the planet.*

Every country, every willing person has a role to play in turning this monster of annihilation around. Australia, as the only western country with significant areas of rainforest is in a key position to protect rainforests, but at present our actions cannot serve as a model for anyone.

Three quarters of the rainforests that existed at the time of European invasion are gone. Less than half the remaining area of rainforest in Australia is protected. Much of the unprotected area will be destroyed in the coming decade due to industrial forestry which it has been conclusively shown is incompatible with rainforest conservation. Protected areas are fragmented and degraded and will be unable to maintain species diversity in the long term.

All remaining rainforest areas in the country must be protected if the biological heritage of Australia's rainforests is to continue much beyond the next 50 years. Having protected our own rainforests, the Australian government will be in a position to assist in the protection of rainforests in our region. At present any action by our government to help or force our neighbours to protect their rainforests will be seen for the hypocrisy that it is.

The following recommendations seek to map out a way forward, so that Australia can play a leading role in preserving the Earth's tropical rainforests. Recommendations to the Australian Government on the Protection of Rainforests.



## I. Domestic

**A. Federal Policy on the protection of remaining Australian rainforests** - protection of all remaining rainforest areas. - ban logging and woodchipping of rainforests and the export of these products.

**B. Ban on the use of rainforest derived wood products in Federal Government activities.** 1) The ban should include all activities funded by the Federal Government including State and Local Government projects and community schemes.

**C. Consumer Education campaign**, supporting existing groups working to educate consumers about the full costs and alternatives of rainforest timbers.

**D. Funding for reforestation of rainforest species** to reestablish degraded ecosystems, and in mixed plantations for both quick growing structural timbers and long term, high quality timbers.

## II. Trade

**A. Ban on import of all tropical timbers** except those derived from ecologically sustainable harvesting of degraded or secondary forests, with the consent and involvement of the traditional owners/users of the forest.

Given the fact that almost all tropical timber imports are derived from primary forests, there is an imperative for the Government to impose such a ban immediately and place the onus on producers to show that their timber is environmentally benign.

## III. Aid

**A. Financial and technical support to:** 1. assist in the creation of protected areas, fauna and flora reserves, national parks etc. 2. establish the legal rights of ownership of forest dwellers to the lands they



# Policy Recommendations...

traditionally occupy or use and to survey and register these lands. 3. promote community-based sustainable forest management projects with a priority on furnishing local needs and non-timber products.

All development assistance, including aid and trade agreements, should be consonant with, and where possible should promote respect for, human rights.

In the first place, development assistance should be made conditional on a respect for human rights including the right of tribal peoples to the use and ownership of their traditional lands. The violation of human rights should be considered grounds for suspending aid and trade flows.

Development projects should be elaborated in cooperation with the local people concerned and should only go ahead with their free and informed consent. Dialogue between development agencies and local peoples should be based on a full sharing of information. Freedom of information, to ensure a meaningful participation of tribal peoples in the development process, should be a pre-condition of aid.

## IV. International

A. Establish an international working group to develop definitions for sustainable tropical timber production that would form the basis for tropical timber imports. B. Establish a marketing body for sustainably produced rainforest timbers that would pay a premium to producers.

## V. Company Measures

Establish environmental and social guidelines for Australian companies operating in rainforest areas or importing products that come from rainforest lands.

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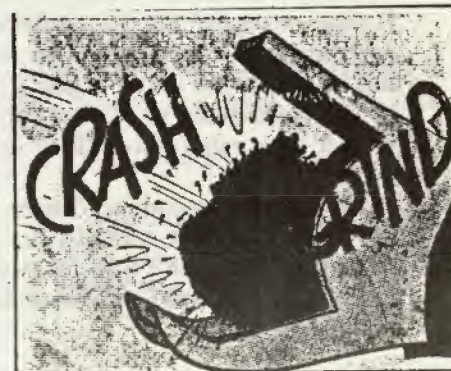
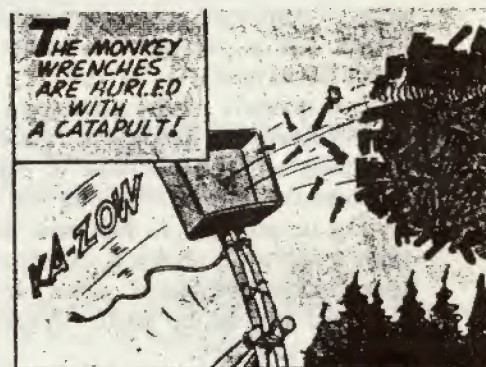
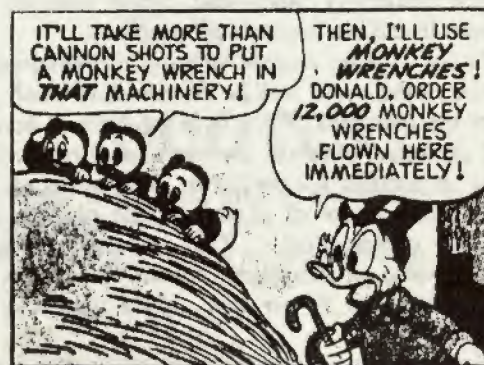
# DISNEY ESPOUSES MONKEY WRENCHING

Ever an exponent of adventure, wide open spaces and wild happenings, cartoonist Carl Barks who drew and wrote many hundreds of "Uncle Scrooge Adventures" for Walt Disney's company, featuring Donald Duck and his three enterprising nephews Hewey, Dewey and Lewey, makes one of the first references to monkey wrenching in a cartoon story entitled "Uncle Scrooge and the Paul Bunyan Machine" (1959). The story has been reprinted by Gladstone Comics in their Gladstone Giant edition number 20, March, 1990. Available from:

Walt Disney's Uncle Scrooge Adventures  
P.O. BOX 2079, PRESCOTT, ARIZONA

86302

U.S.A.





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